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Aristide, Clinton seek Cedras asylum

PANAMA CITY (AFP) — Haiti's exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide asked Panama Tuesday to grant political asylum to the leader of the coup that toppled him. Lieutenant General Raoul Cedras, government spokesman said. The request came a day after U.S. President Bill Clinton asked Panamanian authorities to give refuge to Gen. Cedras and his cohort Brigadier General Philippe Biamby. Haiti's two remaining military rulers, the spokesman said. Gen. Cedras stepped down as army chief Monday and announced his intention to leave Haiti, allowing the return on Saturday of Mr. Aristide, three years after he was ousted from power. The government was examining the request from Mr. Aristide and Mr. Clinton, spokesman Mario Velasquez said, adding that officials were consulting opposition leaders and other representatives on the matter. Sources said the government was expected to grant refuge to the two Haitian leaders and 12 members of their families but that discussions were mostly focussing on a date of their arrival.

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Iraq says pullback is over; U.S. continues buildup

American officials see partial movement, may demand 'exclusion zone' near Kuwait

Combined agency dispatches

SOME OF THE Iraqi units positioned near the Kuwaiti border may be "moving from their combat positions," the Pentagon's top general said Tuesday, but the rapid buildup of American military forces in the region will continue.

General John Shalikashvili told reporters that the military believes that "considerable (Iraqi) units" still remain in the area of the Kuwaiti border.

He placed the number of American forces in the region at 19,000, with an additional 44,500 in "various stages of deployment and planned for deployment." He said another 156,000 troops have been placed on alert.

Gen. Shalikashvili, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, spoke shortly after President Clinton vowed to "stay the course" in forcing an Iraqi pullback from positions. Baghdad's weekend military manoeuvres were eerily reminiscent of the days shortly before Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990, triggering the Gulf war.

Gen. Shalikashvili said the reasons for the Iraq movements in the last several hours were not clear. But, he said of the deployment towards the Kuwaiti border, "this wasn't just some innocent exercise that they were on and we misread it. Far, far from it."

President Clinton agreed on Tuesday it was too soon to judge Iraq's intentions.

"It's a little early yet to

reach a final conclusion" he said while on a campaign swing in New Jersey, adding however: "I am hopeful."

Iraq announced Monday it was pulling back its troops from the Kuwaiti border when they began massing last week.

But Washington has been sceptical about reports of the withdrawal — which Baghdad said earlier Tuesday had been completed.

Defense Secretary William Perry also said Tuesday he would not rule out a pre-emptive strike against Iraq, a position which Gen. Shalikashvili seconded, noting that it was impossible to tell what Baghdad would do next.

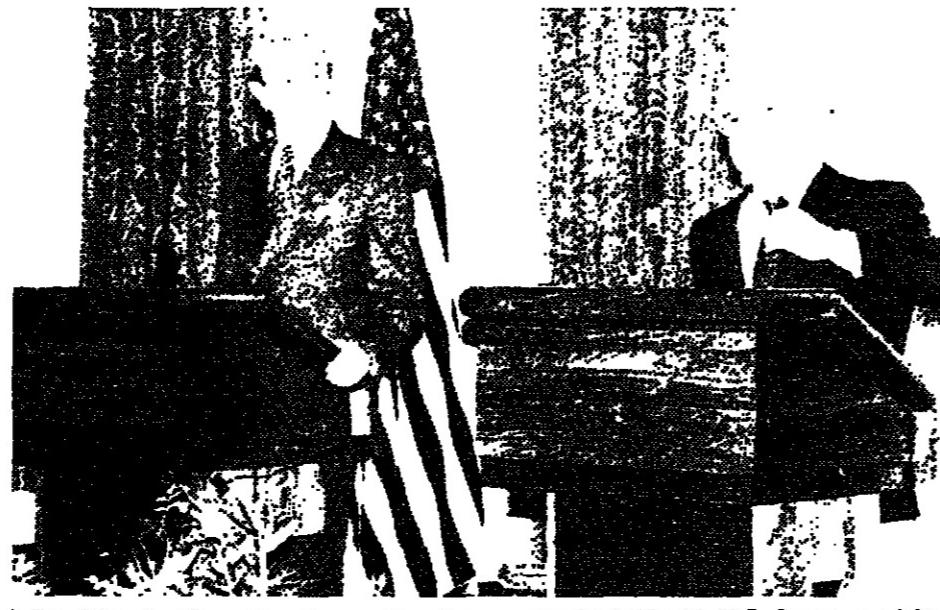
"Not all movements south have stopped yet, but that perhaps is not unusual. When you terminate a movement, some units you don't stop in midstream," Gen. Shalikashvili said.

"On the other hand, you must understand there are significant forces still in place."

Correspondents travelling north from Basra on Tuesday passed a convoy of hundreds of Iraqi military vehicles headed north from the southern Iraqi town.

After Iraq's announcement Monday, Mr. Clinton went on national television to say there was no sign of the Iraqi troops being withdrawn and that he had ordered another 350 warplanes to the region.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein "has shown the world ... he cannot be trusted," Mr. Clinton said.



His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday answers a question at a joint press conference he held with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher (Photo by Yousef Al-Allan)

Gen. Shalikashvili declined to say whether U.S. intelligence had known of the deployment of Iraqi troops — which reached some 80,000 troops by Monday — before an Iraqi opposition group reported the movements on Friday.

U.S. officials first heard about the deployment "around that time," was all he would say.

Meanwhile, an advance party of 800 U.S. troops tested military equipment in Kuwait Tuesday, as more than 32,000 headed for the emirate from the United States to counter any possible Iraqi attack.

U.S.-led forces ousted Iraqi forces from Kuwait in February 1991, ending the seven-month occupation.

Mr. Clinton told reporters as he left for a campaign trip in Michigan on Tuesday that he welcomed the support he had received from allies for the U.S. deployment, adding he was "quite encouraged about the direction of the event."

Mr. Clinton had cancelled a similar trip Monday following Iraq's announcement that it was pulling back its troops.

According to reports from Washington, the U.S. depending on its assessment of the Iraqi withdrawal, might demand that the Iraqi government undertake to

observe an "exclusion zone" near the border with Iraq. The reports said the "exclusion zone" would mean that Iraq cannot deploy heavy armour in the area.

Details of the reportedly planned American demand were not available, but it appeared that Washington was seeking to ensure that no Iraqi long-range artillery is deployed within striking distance of Kuwait.

Kuwaiti Information Minister Sheikh Saad Nasser Al Sabah said the world should forbid Baghdad from moving ground troops into southern Iraq until it recognises an "exclusion zone."

(Continued on page 7)

King: Jordan will react seriously to any threats to stability in Middle East

HM blames Iraq for rising tension, expresses sympathy for Iraqi people

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein said Tuesday that Jordan held Iraq responsible for the rising tension in the Gulf, stressing that the Kingdom will react seriously and stand in the face of any threat to regional stability.

"I express very deep sadness, disappointment and anger over these recent movements of troops in southern Iraq" not because it is not the right of any country to move its troops within its territory but because the perception could be that Iraq is repeating "something that happened four years ago, that brought this entire region a lot of misery and a lot of suffering," King Hussein said in a joint press conference with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

The King said Jordan would be against Iraq if its actions lead to the possibility

of Arabs fighting Arabs again, adding that "we are against any adventure in this area."

But King Hussein stressed that the Kingdom differentiates between the government of Iraq and the Iraqi people, voicing his sympathy and concern for the Iraqi people and their future.

"I feel as strongly as any of my people feel about Iraq and the suffering of the people of Iraq," the King said, adding that "I hope somehow a solution will be found and the people of Iraq would be free of fear, of intimidation, of hunger and of need."

The King said he was very hurt over the suffering of the Iraqi people, noting that he had his family in Iraq which was part of a union with the Kingdom up until 1958 when he lost this family. Despite that, he said, he recognised Iraq and the right of the Iraqi people to determine their own future.

"What our hope has always

been for Iraq is a democratic Iraq where pluralism is a way of life, where democracy is a way of life, where respect for human rights is paramount. I hope this will happen somehow," the King told the press conference.

King Hussein said it was regrettable that a government would place itself in a position where others will have to consider action to prevent the emergency of a dangerous situation that can threaten others.

The King said the "dilemma has to be worked out and hopefully the nightmare will end in a way" that will give Iraqis their freedom and Iraq the place it deserves in the region and in the world.

"Once again, the international community is faced with the threats of aggression here in the Middle East. Once again the international community will stand together in resisting these

(Continued on page 7)

Jordan, PNA conclude talks with agreement on key issues

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian and Palestinian officials concluded three days of meetings on Tuesday after reaching broad agreements on several key issues, including trade, exemption of goods from customs duties, monetary and banking affairs of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and civil aviation staff, including pilots and flight crew.

The agreements appeared to signal a major breakthrough for Jordanian-Palestinian relations, which have seen their lowest ebb in recent days over non-coordination in the peace process and conflicting perceptions of priorities.

Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh, head of the Jordanian delegation, and his Palestinian counterpart Yasser Abed Rabbo said that the agreements covered exchange of

goods, Jordan's role and help in supervising commercial banks in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the continued status of the Jordanian dinar as the main legal tender in the territories, and the Kingdom's help in setting up a Palestinian airline and training Palestinian civil aviation staff, including pilots and flight crew.

Under the agreement, Jordan will help the Palestine self-rule authority supervise commercial banks in the occupied territories under the rules and regulations drawn up by the self-rule authority. That marked a change from an earlier agreement that the banks will operate under the rules and regulations of the Central Bank of Jordan.

It was also agreed that Palestinian planes will be registered in Jordan and the Queen Alia International

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Ministers brief Cabinet on outcome of recent meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet on Tuesday listened to reports about the outcome of Jordanian-Palestinian talks.

Dr. Tarawneh said there was a convergence of views on many points, adding that he does not expect any major problems in the talks.

"Water, security, borders and territories are issues of sovereignty for Jordan," he said. "Once these issues are solved, then the signing of a peace accord will be left for the governments to work out."

Dr. Tarawneh said the two sides agreed on a set of principles governing the work of negotiators in the three main committees. However, he added, no final agreement had been reached on these issues.

On the water and territory issues, Dr. Tarawneh said there was no difference over Jordan's rights in waters of the Yarmouk and Jordan rivers in addition to ground water.

displaced persons, and bilateral economic cooperation.

On the severance of ties with West Bank Awqaf, Mr. Rawabdeh said in view of the impact of this decision on the people there and due to the fact that the Islamic Court is in Jerusalem, the two sides agreed that the Palestinian side prepare a working paper outlining its position towards this issue in order for the Jordanian government to study it and take the right decision.

On the identification documents, the Palestinian side was requested to prepare a working paper explaining in details the kind of assistance the PNA expects from Jordan.

Mr. Rawabdeh added that the PNA requested Jordan to authenticate such documents.

The PNC intends to issue passports and travel documents to Palestinians living in the occupied territories and

(Continued on page 7)

Queen Beatrix to visit Jordan

THE HAGUE (AP) — Queen Beatrix is to make the first visit by a Dutch monarch to Jordan, the government information service announced Monday. The queen and her husband Prince Claus, have been invited for the Dec. 6 to 8 visit by King Hussein. Details of the royal couple's itinerary were not released. The Dutch monarch is scheduled to visit Israel in March next year at the invitation of Israel's President Ezer Weizman.

Jerusalem mufti passes away

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday delegated Acting Chief Islamic Justice in Jerusalem Sheikh Abdul Qadar Abadeen to attend the funeral of the mufti of Jerusalem, Sheikh Suleiman Al Jaafari, who passed away in Jerusalem Tuesday, and to convey the King's condolences to Al Jaafari family over his death. Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Izzeddine Al Khatib Al Tamimi mourned the death of Sheikh Suleiman and recalled his efforts in promoting Arab unity and preventing inter-Arab and Islamic divisions.

30 injured in AUB protest

BEIRUT (AFP) — Thirty-one students and police officers were injured in clashes during a protest over an increase in tuition fees at the American University of Beirut (AUB), hospital officials said Tuesday. Trouble flared Monday when around 100 police intervened to clear students occupying the university's administration offices in protest at a 10 per cent rise in fees. Demonstrators hurled stones and empty bottles at police who used rifles butts and clubs to drive them from the offices. Police equipped with clubs and shields on Tuesday deployed at the university gates, as several hundred students gathered on campus to shout slogans against the university administration, an AFP correspondent said.

Gaps remain between Syria, Israel, Christopher says

The U.S. envoy is to visit Kuwait Wednesday to discuss with Arab Gulf leaders the tension on the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border. He will also meet U.S. troops in the emirate.

U.S. officials said Mr. Christopher would return Thursday to Damascus after a visit to Israel.

"We don't have an agreement yet," said one official on condition of anonymity, and repeated U.S. views that high-level Israeli-Syrian talks were needed for an agreement to be concluded.

"Both parties are very serious but gaps do remain," Mr. Christopher said before leaving for Amman.

"The parties are committed to attend and achieve a comprehensive peace. There is hope they can do so," Mr. Christopher said.

"I am more convinced than ever of the seriousness of Syria and Israel," he said.

He describes his talks with Mr. Assad as "good and constructive" and said he had briefed him on the discussions he had on Monday in Israel with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. They also discussed the situation in the Golan.

(Continued on page 7)

Tarawneh reports progress in Eilat meetings

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Israel are close to an accord on the demarcation of their border in the Wadi Ara region, chief Jordanian negotiator Fayed Tarawneh said Tuesday.

Peace talks between Syria and Israel have deadlocked over an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Mr. Rabbin said on Monday

"he wanted 'peace and security in dignity for Israel and Syria' in what some analysts saw as a deliberate use of the word 'dignity'" often uttered by Syrian leaders in their demands for a total Golan pullback.

Publicly, however, Israel has refused to say how far it would withdraw on the Golan.

(Continued on page 7)

Rabin suspends autonomy talks after soldier kidnapped

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin Tuesday ordered the suspension of Israel-Palestinian talks in Cairo on the extension of Palestinian autonomy after the kidnapping of an Israeli soldier by militants, officials said.

Mr. Rabin instructed Israeli delegation leader General Danny Rothschild to leave Cairo immediately and return to occupied Jerusalem, they said.

Neither Israeli nor PLO officials were immediately available for comment on the report.

Israel also sealed off the autonomous Gaza Strip and Mr. Rabin called an emergency cabinet meeting after Ezzedin Al Qassam had kidnapped 19-year-old Nachshon Waksman, who went missing Sunday.

Mr. Rabin called an emergency cabinet session to decide a course of action Wednesday after meeting with Chief-of-Staff Ehud Barak and other top security officials.

Mr. Rabin also decided to seal off the Gaza Strip until further notice, preventing Palestinian workers from entering the Jewish state, military sources said.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat pledged to "do everything possible" to find the soldier, his special aide Ahmad Tibi said.

But Mr. Rabin warned that Arafat bore responsibility for the soldier's fate.

(Continued on page 7)

Israel asks PLO to explain Jerusalem gun

ISRAEL demanded Tuesday the PLO explain how an assailant who gunned down people sitting in cafes in Jerusalem this week got hold of a Palestinian police weapon.

"This is grave. We must examine if it was a weapon stolen from a policeman or sold by a policeman," Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said.

"We have delivered this message to the Palestinian police in Gaza. We gave them the number of this weapon and we are asking for the appropriate answer."

Mr. Rabin said the AK-47 assault rifle found on one of the bodies belonged to the Palestinian police. All weapons were registered by Israel when Palestinian police crossed into the Gaza Strip.

On the water and territory issues, Dr. Tarawneh said there was no difference over Jordan's rights in waters of the Yarmouk and Jordan rivers in addition to ground water.

The talks also covered the

Princess Sarvath highlights progress achieved by YMWA's centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, the president of the Young Muslim Women Association (YMWA), on Tuesday opened at the Royal Cultural Centre an exhibition of ceramic and textile works made by students at the association's special education centre.

Princess Sarvath, who was accompanied at the opening ceremony by Her Royal Highness Princess Raima, voiced her satisfaction with the quality of items on display at the exhibition and lauded progress achieved by the centre in offering services to the mentally retarded through academic and vocational programmes.

"It's a very small beginning, and it's very gratifying to see how far the centre has progressed, how well the children have done, and how many young people we have managed to help take their rightful place in the society," Prin-



Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath on Tuesday tours an exhibition of products of the Young Women Muslim Association (Petra photo)

cess Sarvath said in a statement to Jordan Television. "Of course, the most important aim was targeted

towards education, especially special education," she added. She said she felt that

there was a complete change in Jordan and the world at large in the outlook of people towards special education and people with special needs.

"When we started with our centre, we had 20 children, three teachers and rented accommodation, and a lot of people came to me at that time and said: 'Why are you getting so involved with children who are handicapped, there is a lot to be done in Jordan for other children who have perhaps not such difficult needs?' and I said 'yes, we have to work for everyone. We can't just leave one group out,' and I believe the whole perception has just changed completely," she said.

Now, she added, there were several excellent centres and schools as well as several sheltered workshops in Jordan. "We are very proud to be amongst the pioneers of this idea in the country," she said.

Iran steps up pressure on Afghan refugees to leave

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran has stepped up the pressure on thousands of Afghan refugees to leave, despite promises by officials here that the refugees would be spared a winter trek home.

An Afghan diplomat told AFP that police in the northeastern province of Khorasan had intensified a crackdown on the refugees, "systematically confiscating their identity cards and providing them instead with a temporary permit valid for a few weeks."

Up to 700,000 Afghans live in the province bordering on Afghanistan.

After the permits expired the refugees would either have to leave voluntarily or face expulsion.

"Tens of thousands of refugees holding legal status are threatened by the new measures," the diplomat said.

The allegations were confirmed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Tehran. UNHCR officials expressed "concern" about the measures, which went into effect July.

As a result of the pressure, more than 40,000 Afghan refugees have left Iran since last month. About 2,000 departures have been recorded daily — three times more than during the summer.

"Three-quarters of those repatriated were forced to leave against their will," said Seyed Khan Padesht Rohani, who oversees refugee affairs at the Afghan embassy in Tehran.

According to the UNHCR, up to 40,000 refugees are stuck in camps in Herat, western Afghanistan, unable to return home because of security fears and the onset of winter.

Threatened by a new influx of refugees from Iran, the governor of Herat province, Ismael Khan, arrived here Sunday to ask the authorities to ease the pressure on the refugees.

"We know we will have a serious problem during the winter. There is a shortage of food, shelter, medicine and fuel for the refugees," Ismael Khan told reporters Monday.

The Afghan official, who controls all of western Afghanistan, said some 5,000 refugee families had been forced out of Iran "against their will" and arrived in Herat in the past two months.

"Iran should allow the refugees to be repatriated gradually. Otherwise we will not be able to settle them for a long period," Ismael Khan warned.

He said Iranian Interior Minister Ali Mohammad Beshati had "agreed to a moratorium" on forced repatriation and had held local officials responsible for the crackdown, which "did not reflect government policy."

However, Afghan diplomats and the UNHCR were sceptical about Mr. Beshati's comments saying Tehran had made similar promises before.

Last month Mr. Beshati said Iran would allow more than 500,000 Afghan refugees facing expulsion to stay until next spring.

Around 1.8 million Afghans who fled the Soviet invasion of their country and ensuing civil war still live in Iran, according to official figures.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Turabi urges worldwide anti-secular front

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Sudanese Islamic leader Hassan Al Turabi urged Monday the creation of a broad front of religious believers to counter the "irreligious" value systems presently dominating the globe. Dr. Turabi, secretary general of the Khartoum-based Popular Arab and Islamic Conference, said the major challenge facing believers worldwide was countering irreligious trends trying to impose themselves as international law. Speaking at an inter-religious conference currently in session here, Dr. Turabi said the building of a religious front was based on the unity of heavenly faiths striving for happiness, security and stability. He noted that the world was falling victim to a general movement aimed at distancing humanity from a religious vision of the universe and of life. The present religious awakening was a reaction against this secularism which resulted in capitalist economic injustices and in moral corruption through the disintegration of the family and sexual perversions, Dr. Turabi added.

Rights group urges King Fahd to save Egyptian

CAIRO (AFP) — A human rights group on Monday appealed to Saudi Arabia's King Fahd to prevent the flogging of an Egyptian doctor who accused a Saudi headteacher of sexually abusing his son. The doctor has been sentenced to 40 lashes outside a school as pupils are leaving, another 120 lashes over two weeks and 45 days in prison, said the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights.

The group urged "the international community and non-governmental organisations to strongly intervene with King Fahd to prevent the flogging of Dr. Mohammad Kamel Khalifa." Dr. Khalifa was held in prison after he lodged a complaint against the headteacher of his son's school, accusing him of injecting his son with an anaesthetic and sexually abusing him, the organisation said in a statement.

The doctor is also accused of sending his son and wife back to Egypt before the boy could be put in a Saudi juveniles home, the statement said. The boy is "still suffering from depression, acute anxiety, and fits of crying and fright," and is being treated at a Cairo hospital, it added. The organisation also called on Egypt's Foreign Minister Amr Musa to intervene to secure the doctor's immediate release.

Turkish jets strike at Kurdish base

ANKARA (AP) — Turkish jets have carried out an air raid on a suspected Kurdish rebel camp in northern Iraq, the military said in a statement Monday. The guerrillas of the illegal Kurdish Labour Party, known as the PKK, use bases in northern Iraq to launch hit-and-run attacks inside Turkey. The statement said 21 jets struck at the camp along the Euphrates river at 2:30 p.m. Sunday. All of the jets returned safely to their bases. The statement said the ammunition depot and the gun points at the camp were destroyed in the raid. It gave no accounts of casualties.

Turkey's state television played footage taken from the air shortly after the raid, showing smoke coming from barely visible installations in a valley between the mountains. Also Monday, Turkish troops killed 25 guerrillas in separate clashes in eastern and southeastern Turkey, the Anatolia news agency said. The guerrillas killed three soldiers overnight in the Van province, the dispatch said. The guerrillas have been fighting for autonomy since 1984.

Lawyer of Turkish militant arrested

ANKARA (AP) — A court ordered the arrest Monday of a lawyer for a leftist leader captured in France last month. The lawyer, Murat Demir, was charged with membership in his client's gang. Mr. Demir and another attorney, Ahmet Yuksel, were detained Sept. 27 shortly before a planned meeting at the French embassy to discuss their client, Dursun Karatas, the founder of Turkey's most violent underground group, Dev-Sol. Mr. Yuksel was released by the court. He told the Associated Press that his colleague faced torture during detention. Mr. Yuksel said police seized all legal documents related to Mr. Karatas' case. He claimed that some documents were intended to try to block Mr. Karatas' extradition. France normally refuses to extradite suspects who risk the death penalty in their homeland. Mr. Karatas escaped from an Istanbul prison in 1989. Mr. Karatas was captured by French police as he tried to slip through the French-Italian border. A French judge has already charged Mr. Karatas with illegal association, using false documents and receiving stolen documents in relation with a terrorist group.

Drought kills 200 pelicans in Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — More than 200 pelicans have died because of a severe drought which has hit swamps in southeastern Iran, the official agency IRNA said Monday. Regional environment protection officer Zabiollah Akrami told IRNA the pelicans had arrived from central Asia to winter on the edges of Lake Hamun, close to the border with Afghanistan. Thousands of migratory birds head every winter for the lake, which covers 200,000 hectares in the Sistan-Baluchestan province.

Israel, Rwanda renew diplomatic ties

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel and Rwanda on Monday renewed diplomatic ties broken off 20 years ago, diplomats said here. The ceremony to launch the new ties took place in the offices of the Israeli delegation to the United Nations in the presence of diplomats from the two countries. Rwanda broke off ties with the Jewish state after the Arab-Israeli war of 1973. Rwanda's ambassador to the U.N. said his country, under a new government since July, hoped for cooperation with Israel in the fields of defence and technology. Israel recently sent a medical team to the Rwandan-Zairean border as part of aid efforts for refugees who fled the bloody civil war.

Rajavi urges Clinton to change line

AUVERS-SUR-OISE, France (R) — The woman chosen by the Mujahedeen opposition as future president of Iran urged U.S. President Bill Clinton on Tuesday to end a boycott of the Iranian resistance and recognise that Tehran's rulers were the main source of instability in the Gulf region.

Maryam Rajavi, 41 elected last year by an Iraqi-based exiled National Resistance Council, said the Iranian resistance was building a network inside the country and had an armed force ready in neighbouring Iraq but needed international support.

"The focal point of instability, chaos and fundamentalism in the world right now is the mullahs in Tehran," she told Reuters in an interview at her headquarters in the picturesque village of Auvers-sur-Oise, north-west of Paris.

"If you (Clinton) are interested in establishing peace and stability in that region and beyond, you must make up your mind about Iran, especially since the people of Iran no longer want this regime," Ms. Rajavi said.

She appeared frustrated that Iraq's movement of troops close to the border with Kuwait had once again focused world attention on Baghdad instead of Tehran as a source of potential conflict.

"I am hopeful that no problems arise out of this recent development... everyone wants peace and tranquility and not war. Only the mullahs want war and turmoil and conflict because they thrive on it," she said.

Despite pressure in Congress, the Clinton administration has refused to deal with the Mujahedeen, citing past anti-American actions, dependence on Iraq and a lack of support inside Iran.

The Mujahedeen, originally Islamic leftists, played a key role in the 1979 revolution that ousted the Shah but soon broke with Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and were suppressed in a ruthless clampdown that began in 1981.

The Iranian government brands them "monarchs" (hypocrites) and accuses them of terrorism. Ms. Rajavi said the movement had suffered 100,000 dead and many more jailed and tortured.

Assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau told a House of Representatives hearing last week: "Their primary base of operations today is in Iraq, with the support, sponsorship and umbrella protection of (President) Saddam Hussein."

"We do not feel that with that background, they have a very wide base of support in Iran," he added.

Ms. Rajavi, whose Baghdad-based husband Masoud Rajavi heads a National Liberation Army that recently held live-fire exercises in Iraq, said an armed force could only be effective if it was within striking distance of the Iranian border, not in Europe or America.

The movement had long ago shed its anti-Americanism and campaigned for human rights and a modern, tolerant version of Islam, she said.

Symbolically, the National Resistance Council has revived the ancient Persian lion-and-sun symbol discarded by the Islamic revolution, but it refuses to deal with the late Shah's son, Reza Pahlavi.

Clark: Cyprus problem is 'close to impasse'

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The U.N. special envoy for Cyprus, former Canadian Prime Minister Joe Clark, said Monday the Cyprus problem was "close to an impasse."

Speaking to reporters after giving Security Council members a private briefing, he said: "I indicated, as I had when I was in Cyprus not long ago, that we are close to an impasse on this question."

"My view remains that it is a question that can be resolved, but at the moment we are close to an impasse."

Cyprus has been virtually partitioned since 1974 when Turkish troops occupied the north of the island in reaction to a coup in Nicosia engineered by the junta then ruling Greece.

The Turkish Cypriots declared their own breakaway state in 1983, recognised only by Ankara.

U.N.-sponsored talks aimed at reunifying the island under a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation have been sputtering along for years.

The allegations came as the ruling Conservative Party prepared for its annual conference, which opens on Tuesday in the south coast resort of Bournemouth, and threatened to worsen the party's image, already tarnished by charges of sleaze and corruption.

The main opposition Labour Party called for a government inquiry into the allegations. But Mark Thatcher, who has been dogged for years by rumours about the sources of his wealth, denied arms trading.

In an interview for Monday's Today newspaper from his home in Dallas, Texas, Mrs. Thatcher dismissed the report.

"The idea that I run around peddling Kalashnikovs or second-hand MIG jets is ridiculous. I haven't even sold a penknife," Mrs. Thatcher who left Britain in the mid-1980s when his shadowy business life first began to blossom.

The newspaper allegations coincide with an opinion poll which showed more than 60 per cent of people deemed the Conservatives "sleazy" and disreputable."

Conservatives Party Chairman Jeremy Hanley said on Monday that Labour's trade and industry spokesman Robin Cook, the man who demanded a government inquiry, was once again acting as "witchdoctor-chief."

"That (issue) is a matter for the people concerned, it is nothing to do with this party conference," Mr. Hanley told the BBC, commenting



Joe Clark

Mr. Clark, who is working on a report which Secretary-General Boutros Ghali is to present to the Security Council at the end of the month, said: "If we could move away from the atmosphere created by those events it would obviously be helpful."

He continued to believe the confidence-building measures were very important, "but we have to recognise that in some degree, in some

particulars, the two sides... have different details in mind."

Mr. Clark, who was later conferring with the Security Council's five permanent members — the United States, Russia, Britain, China and France — told a questioner that neither he nor anyone else had the power to recommend that the European court change its ruling.

But he said the issue "could be revisited... if there were agreement between the two communities on the island as to a stamp or device that would deal with exports." He did not elaborate.

Mr. Clark did not think the impasse had grown particularly worse in the last three or four weeks, "but obviously the situation today is not as promising as it was when it looked like we could get agreement on the confidence-building measures."

"WE don't have the option of doing nothing," he told a questioner, but was unable to say yet what steps should be taken next.

The ruling party has already been hurt by allegations about its arms for aid deal with Malaysia and secret arms trading with Iraq before the Gulf war. This "arms-for-Iraq inquiry," set up by Prime Minister John Major in 1992, will report early in 1995.

Mr. Cook said there were two main questions: "What influence did Mark Thatcher sell in return for these millions and how much did Margaret Thatcher use her public office to promote her son to make a private fortune?" he asked.

Under the 1985 Al Yamamah deal, described by British press as the biggest arms deal of the century, Britain agreed to supply Saudi Arabia with jet fighters, naval mine-hunters and helicopters and to build military bases.

The deal was the subject of an investigation by Britain's National Audit Office, a government watchdog. But a key parliamentary committee vetoed the release of the report on the grounds of national security.

That (issue) is a matter for the people concerned, it is nothing to do with this party conference," Mr. Hanley told the BBC, commenting

on the furor swirling around the Thatchers.

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The deal was the subject of an investigation by Britain's National Audit Office, a government watchdog. But a key parliamentary committee vetoed the release of the report on the grounds of national security.

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 30, Aqaba 32. Humidity readings: Amman 50 per cent, Aqaba 25 per cent.

Unstable weather conditions will prevail, so it will be partly cloudy with a chance of showers and winds south-easterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly active and seas choppy.

Min./Max. temp.: Amman 18/30 Aqaba 23/32 Deserts 16/32 Jordan Valley 24/32

Irribid: Dr. Fayez Qadi 27/309 Al Quds pharmacy (—)

CHURCHES St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellere, Tel. 810740. Church of the Annunciation, Tel. 632785. St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590. Church of the Assumption, Tel. 637440. De La Salle Church Tel. 661757. Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366. Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541. Anglican Church Tel. 630851. Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 77131.

ARMENIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH Tel. 775761. St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751. Armenian International Church Tel. 652526.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Tel. 824328. German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 694195.

P.M. Magazine 20/00. News in Arabic 21/10. Cracking the Code 22/00. News

Home News

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1994 3

Rajavi
Clinton
changes



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Tuesday receives visiting U.S. Governor of Kansas Joan Finney.

Visiting U.S. Kansas state governor sees Jordan as regional trade hub

AMMAN (Petra) — The visiting U.S. Kansas State Governor Joan Finney Tuesday said Jordan could serve as a regional centre for promoting trade, particularly in wheat, in the Middle East. Speaking at a meeting with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Mrs. Finney said that it was important for the United States to cooperate with the Kingdom for a better future for the region.

Dr. Majali said Jordan appreciated the United States' interest in advancing cooperation with the Kingdom, adding that he hoped that such mutual efforts would not be confined to trading in wheat but would also include the exchange of other commodities, expertise and scholarships with the mid-west state.

Princess Basma receives U.S. governor

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday received Joan Finney, governor of the U.S. state of Kansas at the headquarters of Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF), said a QAF statement. The governor, who was accompanied by a delegation of high-level officials was briefed on the development projects of QAF in Jordan. Later discussions focused on the role of women in Jordan and the preparations for the Fourth International Women's Conference in Beijing next year. Mrs. Finney expressed her admiration of the development efforts of Jordanian women and explored with Princess Basma opportunities for cooperation between Jordan and the state of Kansas, the statement said.

Earlier Tuesday Mrs. Finney visited the General Union of Bakeries and was briefed on its activities.

She was told that the union was cooperating closely with the Ministry of Supply and bakery owners in handling

issues related to the 1,300 bakeries in the Kingdom.

A spokesman for the union said that plans exist for establishing a specialised institute to train workers for bakery jobs, but, he added, lack of funds is delaying the implementation of the project.

Unstable weather to persist — officials

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Unstable weather conditions are expected to continue over the Kingdom in the next two days with thunder showers in most regions, especially in the south and east, according to the Department of Meteorology Tuesday.

A department spokesman said that due to an atmospheric depression over Saudi Arabia, the Kingdom will be affected by hot winds from the southeast accompanied by sandstorms in the eastern regions.

Wednesday will be cloudy to partly cloudy, with scattered rains. Temperatures are expected to rise 30°C, dropping to 18°C at night.

He also reported that the Petra Forum Hotel suffered minor damage from the floods.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

FILM

* Video film entitled "Heat and Dust" at the British Council at 7:00 p.m.

PLAY

* Play in Arabic entitled "Lights from Jericho" at the site of the Byzantine Church of Darat Al Funun, Jabal Lweibdeh at 7:30 p.m. (Tel. 643251/2).

NOVEL RECITAL

* Novel recital by novelist Nazeek Damara at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art, Wasfi Tal Street at 6:30 p.m. (Tel. 695291)

EXHIBITIONS

* Exhibitions of abstract art by Waddah Al Ward, Ghassan Abu Laban, and Saheb Ahmad at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art, Wasfi Tal Street (Tel. 695291).

* Ceramics exhibition by Khaled Abdul Sattar at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* Exhibition of abstract art by Rafi' Nasiri at the French Cultural Centre.

* Exhibition of abstract art by Amer Fatih at Instituto Cervantes (Spanish Cultural Centre) (Tel. 610858).

* Exhibition of abstract art by Ali Al M'mar at the Orlai Art Gallery, Umm Utheima (Tel. 826932).

* Exhibition of watercolours by Vladimir Tamari at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Lweibdeh (Tel. 643251/2).

* Oriental pieces exhibition at Gallery Mariam (Tel. 824425).

* Exhibition of paintings by Dia Azzawi at Ab'dad Art Gallery (Tel. 862105).

* Exhibition of oil paintings by Kamal Boullata entitled "Dunes, Quarts, and a Triangle" at Darat Al Funun of the Abdin Hameed Shouman Foundation in Jabal Lweibdeh. Also showing "permanent exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists" (Tel. 643251/2).

* "The Diness Exhibit" — beginnings of photography in Jerusalem and the Holy Land at the American Center exhibition hall, Abdoun.

Crown Prince stresses significance of obtaining accurate labour statistics

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday said that the Kingdom still lacks accurate statistics on labour and labourers which are important factors to planners and decision makers.

Addressing the opening of a general conference by the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions at Al Hussein Sports City, Prince Hassan said unions are called on to organise their work and obtain accurate information and statistics from government departments and institutions.

Calling on labour unions to benefit from the expertise of regional and international organisations concerned with labour-related issues, Prince Hassan urged Jordanian unions to attend conferences and take part in activities organised by foreign unions.

The Crown Prince also called on the unions in particular to take part in a social development conference to be held in Denmark in 1995 and a Middle East and North Africa economic conference that is to convene in Morocco this month.

As the Middle East is approaching a new era of regional cooperation, he said, Jordan hopes that through the newly formed Royal Commission for Reform and Modernisation it

will fully develop its social and economic sectors, including areas where labourers are involved.

Prince Hassan said that he wished the federation success, especially in addressing questions related to labour markets, vocational training, raising the standard of trades, and ensuring a better future for the labour force.

Expressing satisfaction with the performance and the success achieved by Jordanian industries, Prince Hassan noted that the mining industries of phosphate, potash and fertilisers have been gaining at the regional and international levels, while the garment, textile and pharmaceutical manufacturers are making headway into foreign markets because of the dedication of Jordanian labour.

Referring to investments, Prince Hassan said that until the end of August this year the capital invested in the country's industries and other businesses registered a 57 per cent increase over figures for the first eight months of 1993, corresponding to JD 236 million this year against JD 144 million during the same period last year.

He said such figures are promising for businesses and labour.

Prince Hassan added that he had sought help from a

private investment fund based in Washington to set up a \$150 million dollar fund to finance medium and small size industries in the Kingdom. He said he hoped that this project would be established soon to help the country address part of its unemployment problem.

In his address Prince Hassan referred to the Middle East peace process, stressing that Jordan can by no means give up its rights in water and land. The country's stand is crystal clear with regard to peace based on justice, said the Crown Prince.

With reference to his own address before the U.N. General Assembly last week, Prince Hassan said that Jordan stands firm in the face of all kinds of discrimination levelled against Islam and the Muslims in Europe, the Arab countries and all parts of the world.

In addition, Prince Hassan said that Jordan does not support any interference in other countries' internal affairs and respects the sovereignty of all Arab countries. He was referring to recent events in the Gulf.

He also said Jordan calls for an end to the suffering of the people of Iraq and hopes that the Arab Gulf countries would reach an understanding over the settlement of their outstanding differences.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday addresses the opening of the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions' general conference (Petra photo)

ing the conference.

Representatives of foreign country unions as well as the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) are also attending the meetings.

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World News

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1994 5



FLOODS IN SPAIN: Volunteers try to remove a car stuck in floodwaters and mud after the river in Cambrils, Spain, burst its banks following heavy rains in the region of Tarragona Monday. One person was missing after being swept away by the floods (AFP photo)

Conservatives give Thatcher muted welcome

BOURNEMOUTH, Eng-
(R) — A careworn Margaret Thatcher won little more than polite applause Tuesday from a Conservative Party annual conference clouded by controversy over allegations concerning her son's role in a big arms deal.

Delegates who used to roar their welcome for minutes on end applauded the former British prime minister for just 40 seconds when she arrived for the first session of the ruling party's four-day gathering in this southern seaside resort.

Lady Thatcher, dressed in imperial purple, looked pale and drawn as she took her seat on the main podium. She is said by aides to be heartbroken that allegations of influence-peddling have overshadowed the conference.

The sleaze charges stem from a report in the Sunday Times newspaper that said

her son, Mark, earned £12 million (\$19 million) brokered a huge arms deal with Saudi Arabia signed by his mother in the late 1980s when she was prime minister.

Mark, who lives in Dallas, Texas, has strongly denied any wrongdoing but has said he would face a "no-win situation" if he returned to Britain to face an inquiry.

His mother, replaced by Mr. Major in November 1990 after an internal party coup, broke her silence Monday to say she was absolutely satisfied that the £20 billion (\$31.7 billion) Al-Yamamah sale of British arms had been properly negotiated.

"She is proud that after a great deal of hard work by ministers and officials it brought thousands of jobs and billions of pounds of exports to this country," a statement issued through her London office said.

Aides said Mr. Major, who

met Lady Thatcher for coffee Tuesday morning, was privately furious that she had spoiled the start of the annual gathering of the Conservative faithful for the second year in a row.

Last year it was the publication of her memoirs, with their unflattering judgment of Mr. Major, that did the damage.

The prime minister refused to add anything to Lady Thatcher's statement, leaving it to top Conservatives to try to limit the damage on a government already viewed by a majority of voters as sleazy and worn out after 15 years in power.

Employment Secretary Michael Portillo spoke of "dark propaganda" being used against the Conservatives.

Sir Marcus Fox, a leading member of parliament, said it could be no accident that the mud-slinging coincided with

the start of the conference. "I see in all this a plot," Mr. Fox told British Broadcasting Corporation Radio.

But the Conservatives did further damage to their image when Michael Dobbs, a deputy party chairman, mentioned Labour leader Tony Blair in the same breath as Gerry Adams, the head of Sinn Fein, the Irish Republican Army's (IRA) political wing.

Both men, he said in a newspaper interview, seemed to be reluctant to use certain words.

The rows will make it harder for Mr. Major to hit back against Labour, the main opposition party, which holds a big poll lead and is in buoyant mood after its own conference last week.

Mr. Major signalled the line of attack he intends to use in a morale-boosting speech to party workers Monday evening.

Cult 'third man' identified among Switzerland dead

GENEVA (Agencies) — Camille Pilet, third-in-command of the Order of the Solar Temple cult, has been identified among 23 corpses found in the village of Cheiry last week, the judge leading the inquiry said Tuesday.

In a statement, Judge Andre Pilet added that a .22 calibre pistol found in the village of Granges-Sur-Suran had been the weapon used on 20 of the Cheiry victims.

The news means that of the three sect leaders only Belgian Luc Jouret, who has an international arrest warrant out in his name, is still missing. Police said Monday that sect chief Joseph Di Mambro was among 25 who died in Cheiry.

Police announced Monday that Joseph Di Mambro, the 70-year-old mastermind and presumed "pope" of the order, was among 48 sect members who met bizarre deaths in the villages of Granges and Cheiry.

According to Swiss newspaper and radio reports, Mr. Pilet's body was among 23 found at Cheiry — many of them lying in a circle clad in cult robes near the basement temple and shot through the head. Mr. Di Mambro died in Granges, 160 kilometres away.

"All eyes must now be on Jouret," said the Tribune De Genvee and 24 Heures in identical reports. The hand-some 46-year-old Belgian

homeopathic doctor was the main guru of the sect and known as a charismatic speaker.

Former sect members have described him as "clearly unbalanced." Family members in Belgium who had not seen him for years say his behaviour was "irrational."

Police said at the weekend they had an international arrest warrant out for Mr. Jouret and Mr. Di Mambro. But they do not exclude the possibility that Mr. Jouret also may be among the dead in Granges, where many bodies were burned beyond easy recognition.

Officials in Canada — where five people died — and Australia are investigating the possibility that top figures in the sect used it as a cover for an international arms-smuggling and money-laundering racket.

At least two major Swiss banks have launched investigations into accounts held by known cult members.

If Mr. Jouret were also known to have died, then there is no doubt Swiss police would be looking for other leaders of either the Swiss or the Canadian branches of the cult whose members prepared for an imminent armageddon.

In this case Mr. Pilet, said

in Swiss press reports from Canada to have flown to Europe late last month to try to reconcile differences between the two cult branches, and police also found two decomposing bodies.

The Lausanne daily Le Matin said Tuesday that Mr. Jouret and Mr. Pilet had been close and were unhappy with developments in the order. "They disagreed with the way certain gurus were operating," it quoted one sect member in Quebec as saying.

According to the newspaper, these differences had led to Mr. Jouret losing his position as cult leader in Canada to Robert Falardeau, mayor of the community of Richeleau near Montreal — who, with his wife, was among the dead in Switzerland.

Le Matin said Mr. Pilet had been seen at a restaurant near Cheiry on Oct. 1 — four days before the Granges chalets and the Cheiry farm were set alight and police and firemen made their grisly finds.

Three separate Swiss police departments Tuesday began a detailed examination of a gun which they hope will shed light on the continuing mystery of 53 doomsday occult-related deaths in Switzerland and Canada.

S. Korea tells U.S. to slow down in N. Korea nuclear talks

GENEVA (Agencies) — South Korean President Kim Young-Sam Tuesday urged Washington to slow down in its drive to reach a nuclear agreement with North Korea at long-running talks in Geneva.

Mr. Kim was speaking in an interview with the CNN Television network broadcast around the world as U.S. and North Korean negotiators in the Swiss city were moving into higher gear in what officials said was an attempt to overcome major differences.

The rift between Seoul and Washington over how to tackle North Korea's suspect nuclear programme deepened Tuesday with South Korea accusing the United States of rushing into an ill-considered accord with the North simply to pull off a diplomatic coup.

Newspapers here quoted unnamed officials as saying the angry accusations were spurred by Seoul's dismay at learning of the broad outline of an agreement Washington was considering presenting to North Korea at the negotiating table in Geneva.

In Seoul, U.S. Ambassador James Laney was called into the Foreign Office by

Foreign Minister Han Sung-Joo, their second meeting in two days, and informed of South Korean "concern" over the proposed agreement, officials said.

The Han-Laney meeting followed a top-level security meeting here and came after top presidential advisor on security, Chung Chong Wook, had telephoned his counterpart Anthony Lake to detail the differences, newspapers said.

Sources and newspapers said Seoul was unhappy over several points in the reported proposal.

The points of difference included special inspections of the North's suspect facilities, the proposed timing of the opening of liaison offices in each others' capitals, the resumption of an Inter-Korean dialogue and the type of nuclear reactor to be offered to Pyongyang.

"The United States is rushing for an agreement to score a diplomatic coup," the Joong-Ang daily quoted Mr. Chung as saying, as President Kim Young-Sam's ruling party issued a statement backing the hardline stand.

The rift burst into the open Friday when New York

Times and Japan's Asahi Shimbun published interviews with Mr. Kim in which he lambasted the United States for making too many compromises and called its negotiating posture "half-backed" and naive.

The comments aroused consternation in the United States Sunday when U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher telephoned Mr. Han Sung-Joo from Israel to express his "concern."

Mr. Christopher later downplayed the disagreement, and said Seoul and Washington had no major differences in their positions on how to persuade the North to give up its suspect nuclear programme.

The latest reports from Geneva have characterised the ongoing negotiations as "totally deadlocked" over two points — the timing of special outside inspections of two nuclear sites and the refuelling and restarting of a 5-megawatt reactor at the North's Yongbyon nuclear complex.

North Korea has for the past two months heaped invective on the South Korean president, blaming him for a crackdown on radicals and leftists in the South.

4 die during Pakistan strike

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — At least four people were killed and several were injured in sporadic violence Tuesday as a general strike called by the Pakistani opposition disrupted in many parts of the country, opposition sources and witnesses said.

A woman and a man were fatally shot and injured when unidentified gunmen fired on a bus in the northwestern town of Charsadda, local residents said, while opposition sources said one person died at Gujrat in Punjab province.

In Karachi, where commercial and industrial activity was at a standstill, one person was shot dead in sniper firing and police also found two decomposing bodies.

A road accident also claimed lives of five workers of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) in the Punjabi capital of Lahore, official sources said.

The Lahore deaths occurred when PPP workers perched on the roof of a minibus were hit by overhead bars as the vehicle passed under a bridge, an official said, adding that 13 injured workers were hospitalised.

The stopped short of offering a formal coalition, which would bring his far right into power for the first time.

Mr. Haider offered to cooperate with a minority conservative government, providing they dumped their leader Erhard Busch.

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cooperate with a minority conservative government, providing they dumped their leader Erhard Busch.

At the same time, Austrian President Thomas Krestil accepted the resignation of the outgoing coalition government and swore in the same cabinet as a caretaker administration pending talks on a fresh coalition.

Mr. Busch, in an outspoken interview published in the mass-circulation Kurier newspaper, said a dissident minority inside his own ranks "certainly cost me four per cent of the vote" in Sunday's general election.

Among the dissidents he

named was Foreign Minister Alois Mock, who hinted dur-

Problems hamper integration of rebels into S. African army

WALMANSTHAL, South Africa (AFP) — The South African army faces major problems in integrating some 27,000 soldiers from the black liberation movements, many of whom have mutinied, army officers acknowledged Tuesday.

Major General Bertie Botha, deputy army chief in charge of the integration, said that the integration process had virtually ground to a

halt because large number of former guerrillas were refusing to return to their bases.

At Walmansthal military camp, just north of Pretoria, only 1,300 former guerrillas out of a total of 7,500 were in the base, the rest being absent without leave (AWOL), Gen. Botha told journalists at a briefing on the base.

Some 21,000 members of the ruling African National Congress' army, Umkhonto

We Sizwe (Spear of the Nation or MK) and some 6,000 members of the militant Pan Africanist Congress' Azanian People's Liberation Army (APLA) are due to be integrated into the defence force.

The problems at Walmansthal and two other integration bases are to receive the "urgent" attention of President Nelson Mandela, his spokesman said Tuesday, without giving further details.

Austria's Haider works on conservative split

VIENNA (R) — Signs of a serious split in Austria's conservative People's Party emerged Tuesday after its worst election result since 1945, and far-right leader Joerg Haider seized the opportunity to widen the rift.

Mr. Haider offered to cooperate with a minority conservative government, providing they dumped their leader Erhard Busch.

He stopped short of offering a formal coalition, which would bring his far right into power for the first time.

Mr. Haider made his proposal at a news conference in Vienna shortly before a crucial meeting of the People's Party executive.

At the same time, Austrian President Thomas Krestil accepted the resignation of the outgoing coalition government and swore in the same cabinet as a caretaker administration pending talks on a fresh coalition.

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Among the dissidents he

named was Foreign Minister Alois Mock, who hinted dur-

ing the election campaign that the conservatives could pull off a radical switch of allegiance and form a partnership with the far right.

The People's Party, which has governed in coalition with the Social Democrats for the past eight years, lost 4.4 per cent of its 1990 vote, chalking up a near disastrous 27.7 per cent.

Mr. Busch said if he had not been for Mr. Mock and others, "we would have been just as strong as before."

Mr. Haider's Freedom Party made the biggest gains in the election, scoring 22.6 per cent and becoming the strongest anti-immigrant party in Europe.

At the same time, Austrian President Thomas Krestil accepted the resignation of the outgoing coalition government and swore in the same cabinet as a caretaker administration pending talks on a fresh coalition.

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ing the election campaign that the conservatives could pull off a radical switch of allegiance and form a partnership with the far right.

Mr. Haider seized the opportunity to widen the rift.

The former Soviet republic's prime minister, Sergei Tereshchenko, offered the resignation of the whole cabinet and Mr. Nazarbayev accepted it, a presidential press spokesman said.

"He (Nazarbayev) was not satisfied with the pace of economic reform," the spokesman said after a lengthy cabinet meeting.

Officials in Lahore denied a PML claim that Mr. Sharif himself was not allowed to leave his residence in Lahore. They said no restrictions were imposed and Mr. Sharif was "free to move." The former premier twice went out of his residence during the day, driving his car in the morning and later toured some areas on foot, the officials said.

A government spokesman derided the strike as an "absolute failure" and said trains were running, flights were operating and traffic plied the roads.

"If there has been a limited impact, it is only the opposition attempt to create a

disturbance," he said.

A government spokesman derided the strike as an "absolute failure" and said trains were running, flights were operating and traffic plied the roads.

"If there has been a limited impact, it is only the opposition attempt to create a

disturbance," he said.

Mr. Tereshchenko, an en-

gineer by training, will leave

the post of prime minister

and stay on for the moment.

Mr. Nazarbayev has previously criticised the speed of economic transformation in the vast country of 17 million people which stretches from the Caspian Sea to China.

Although inflation has been cut to seven per cent a month, industrial and agricultural output has fallen sharply, an Economics Ministry spokesman said.

The president and government agreed last June on a 15-month crisis programme to stabilise the economy. The programme, which was intended to stimulate production and attract foreign investment, also involved further privatisation and reform of agriculture and the banking sector.

However Mr. Nazarbayev's spokesman said the president believed reform was not rapid enough. "There is also no unified team," he added, saying ministers would express different views on how to resolve problems.

In a statement signed by Mr. Tereshchenko, the gov-

ernment should be cut to 4.3 per cent by the end of this year.

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MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.
Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4
Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
Facsimile: 696183

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The price of movement

IT IS TOO early to judge whether Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's latest politico-military manoeuvre was just another blunder by the regime in Baghdad or not.

But the ultimate yardstick by which to measure the new move's success or failure has to be whether the sanctions against Iraq are removed, eased or maintained as a result of moving troops close to the Kuwaiti border.

There can be no argument that on the military level at least, president Hussein stands to lose a coveted chip, presumably free movement for his army's heavy armour in the South.

For one thing, there is no way that the military buildup by Washington and its allies will not be put to some use against Baghdad. When scores of naval units gather in the waters of the Gulf region and hundreds of military aircraft are deployed in the area, it stands to reason that the western powers would want to use them even if the Iraqi army is withdrawn from the border area with Kuwait.

For another, the allies would be inclined to demand new conditions from Iraq in order to avoid a repetition of last week's episode. There is no telling how far Washington would go to extract new terms and conditions from Baghdad as a price for not destroying the Iraqi Republican army.

As far as sanctions are concerned, it can be argued that the chances for lifting them even in part have effectively evaporated as a result of the manoeuvre. It can be said that no permanent member of the United Nations Security Council including France and Russia would be able now to defend the Iraqi case for relaxation of the sanctions. Baghdad had painstakingly cultivated considerable goodwill in the last few months if not years in favour of lifting the embargo imposed against it after having successfully changed its image as a country that accepted the dictates of the Security Council even though they were unjust for the most part. Turkey and other powers in the region have been spearheading the campaign to reintegrate Iraq into the Middle Eastern political framework and they were nearly successful. Now, this school of thought will argue, we are back to square one and Iraq has to begin once again the process of winning support and sympathy from the international community starting with Washington and London.

Whether this in fact will be the scenario is the one-million dollar question. But it is becoming clearer that a fresh attempt at solving the impasse over the sanctions needs to be undertaken. The West must show more reason and compassion in dealing with the sufferings of the Iraqi people, and draw a clear line between this and what the regime is doing.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

WASHINGTON REACTED so promptly to the new developments in the Gulf not because Iraq moved its troops in military exercises near the Kuwaiti borders but simply to serve its own interests, said Mohammad Kawash, a columnist in Al Dastur. What is happening in the Gulf at present is merely a scenario in an American design aimed at perpetuating the embargo on Iraq as long as this design serves U.S. and other Western or some Arab countries' interests, he said. The writer said that Washington has resorted to raising this issue at world level because it wants to escape pressure exercised on it and U.N. Security Council by such nations as Turkey, Russia, China and France, which want to end or ease the sanctions on Iraq. He said the U.S. also wants to create trouble for Iraq at the international level to ensure the continuation of the sanctions. Further more, Washington chose to raise this question now because the Security Council is reviewing the sanctions in light of U.N. envoy's reports about Iraq's compliance with the U.N. resolutions, said the writer. He said that by inciting the world community against Iraq, Washington hopes to stop any attempt to end the embargo.

Amman - Sayyid Al Shabab criticised the way in which the Foreign Ministry selects its staff to be members of the Jordan diplomatic corps. Nazif Qousus said that it is true that the Foreign Ministry places some requirements like a written examination and an interview to ensure the ability of persons to become diplomats, but those who are normally selected to fill the posts are not chosen on merit but rather by way of personal contact and through influence from prominent personalities in the country.

M. KAHIL



FOREIGN POLICY

East Europe's painful and long transition

By Jane Perlez

KONIN, Poland — As Jan Rusin, a 43-year-old coal miner, sits in his wood-paneled living room admiring the fruits of his labour under communism — a television set, comfortable furniture, a shiny, modern kitchen — he wonders why he is jobless and dependent on welfare payments. Capitalism, he says, was supposed to bring him more, not less.

A few miles away in the heart of this industrial town, Elzbieta Leszczynska, creates wedding dresses in the airy basement of her two-story home. Amid the swirl of brocades and laces, and the clip of scissors and sewing machines, Mrs. Leszczynska, one of Poland's new small entrepreneurs, runs a staff of 43 and sells glamorous gowns to boutiques around Poland. But, she, too, is not satisfied. Why can't she expand her business faster? she asks.

The stories are different, but the frustrating reality is the same: In Eastern Europe, capitalism cannot be built overnight. And when it comes, it comes at a price few here expected.

Working habits and egalitarian attitudes drilled into minds by 40 years of communism remain deeply embedded five years after its collapse, making it difficult for people to work through the painful first stage of a conversion to a market economy.

Nonetheless, signs of sudden consumption stand out in once-bleak landscapes. Foreign cars with Polish license plates roar down the decrepit Warsaw-Berlin road. In Budapest, beauticians sell expensive skin creams to nouveau riche women with \$1,300 cellular telephones tucked in their pocketbooks. The highway outside Prague is

dotted with new rest stops that peddle snacks and ice cream along with gasoline, just like in the West.

These three countries of the former Warsaw Pact — Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic — have moved onto the fast track, economists say. More than half the people in these nations work in private business. Small manufacturers have emerged alongside cumbersome state factories. Scores of private banks have opened, and fledgling stock markets attract investors from home and abroad.

But many Poles, Czechs and Hungarians are worse off today than they were five years ago. Their societies have been divided into two classes: the envied few who, despite some rough going, have profited from the change, and a resentful majority upset at not being able to make it.

Economists now agree that it will take much longer than anticipated for these countries to catch up to the West. In countries where the memories of pre-World War II capitalism still linger, the belief that the end of communism would quickly transform Eastern Europe into Western Europe turned out to be false.

And in countries like Romania, Bulgaria, and Slovakia — the laggards in the economic reform process — real progress is hard to find. Foreign investment is scant, and inflation is high. So lethargic has been the advance of reform in Romania that analysts calculate that at the present pace it would take until 2035 before state industries enter private hands.

But even among Romania's more successful neighbours, the path to a market economy has been rough. "No one expected such declines of such magnitude," said Branko Milano-

vic, a senior economist at the World Bank's Transition Economics Division. "The first idea was that the economies would grow immediately because the systems were so inefficient."

Instead, it is now recognised, the economies all lacked sufficient private capital, modern equipment, and managerial know-how for a quick turn-around. In the Czech Republic, for example, the government has produced some impressive results: the lowest unemployment, the lowest inflation, and a balanced budget. But in Prague, capital is so scarce and competition for it so intense that aspiring businessmen say they have to bribe bank officers to get a loan.

The Vienna Institute for Comparative Economic Studies, where analysts study Eastern Europe, concluded in an assessment in July that it would be well into the next decade before the three fast-track countries could match the economic strength of even the less well-off countries in the European Union (EU), like Spain.

"The mechanisms of the command economy were dismantled everywhere with surprising speed," said Peter Havlik, the institute's deputy director. "On the other hand, the formation of new institutions has turned out to be much more difficult, slower, and more painful than most analysts had expected at the outset of reforms in 1990."

"It was thought that in five years they would reach German levels. But this is complete nonsense. Realistically, there will be enormous differences between Eastern Europe and Western Europe for years to come."

As these countries removed state subsidies from industries and laid off bloated work forces, there have been severe social

costs: a drop in living standards, long-term unemployment, and the emergence of stark poverty.

Poland, where a "shock therapy" economic policy of removing subsidies and making the currency convertible was slammed into action in 1989, is the first country to show growth. Even so, by the end of this year, Poland will be producing only 90 per cent of its pre-1989 gross domestic product, according to the Vienna Institute.

In the Czech Republic, despite what many consider careful management, the economy will only start to grow again this year. In the last five years, the Czech economy has shrunk by 20 per cent, the institute says. And in Hungary, the five-year drop in gross domestic product is forecast at 18 per cent.

Everywhere real wages tumbled dramatically: In Poland, the buying power of wages has fallen by 28 per cent since 1989; by 18 per cent in the Czech Republic, and by 16 per cent in Hungary.

Societies accustomed to the notion that everyone should have equal economic standing are now given by a sudden upsurge in poverty, a widening of the formerly narrow gulf between the poor and everyone else in what once had been an attempt at a classless society. About 15 per cent of Poles live below the poverty line compared with a steady 5 to 10 per cent in the 1980s, according to findings published in July by the World Bank.

Unemployment has emerged as a permanent legacy as private sectors fail to expand fast enough to take on workers laid off from state industries. In Poland, the unemployment rate stands at 15 per cent and could, according to some forecasts, rise to 20 per cent. Most troubling,

case workers say, about 40 per cent of unemployed have been looking for work for more than a year.

And in the Czech Republic, the very low 3.1 per cent unemployment rate is bound to increase when the inevitable removal of subsidies happen.

Beyond the economic realities, many people are overwhelmed by the mental adjustments that have to be made. Poland's former communist leader, General Wojciech Jaruzelski, who has recently made a surprising comeback in public opinion polls, said:

"The rising disparities between rich and poor are offensive in a society where everyone once lived equally. In the West, people respect success. Here, it arouses suspicion."

Adapting to different values after 40 years of communism — initiative instead of passivity, stress on merit instead of party loyalty — proving a substantial constraint on economic development. A lack of laws that deal with such things as breach of contract adds to the problem.

"I have the feeling that the question of mentality is the real obstacle to change," said Rudolf Andorka, the rector of Budapest University.

American Airlines says it has taken 18 months to train the ground staff at Warsaw airport to Western levels of low absenteeism, no drinking on the job and service with a smile. A concept that was hard to get across, said Frank R. Van Zanden, an American Airlines manager, was the reason to be pleasant instead of surly to customers.

"We had to explain again and again that passengers weren't doing us a favour by flying," he said, "that the money passengers spent on tickets paid for staff salaries."

The New York Times

Thailand moving towards democracy

By Tony Austin
Reuters

BANGKOK — From an unpromising start, when friends and foes alike rated his chances slim, Chuan Leekpai has embarked on his third year of office, with prospects of becoming Thailand's longest-serving civilian prime minister.

Mr. Chuan himself, in a written reply to questions by Reuters, played down the issue of how long he expected to stay in power, saying his job was to make a democratically elected government acceptable to Thailand and to prove it could run the country effectively.

"What is important is that any future change should be within the rules of democracy and the constitution," the 54-year-old leader of the Democrat Party said.

Diplomats however agreed that Mr. Chuan, whose unassuming manner belies a tough and skilful politician, had already achieved much by not only staying in power but also consolidating his authority over an often fractious five-party coalition.

Since he took office on Sept. 23, 1992, Mr. Chuan's

government has weathered no-confidence motions in parliament and an embarrassing rebuff to its attempts to write more democracy into the constitution.

"They turned out mostly to be tempests in a teacup, but governments have fallen for less," one diplomat said.

Mr. Chuan himself once had to fend off public criticism for failing to marry the mother of his child, and a protester recently hurled a bag of excrement at one of his ministers.

But if he hangs on until next June, it will be a record: No Thai civilian prime minister has survived longer than two years, eight months, and so far no elected government has lasted the full four-year term.

"In 1992, I was an optimist. I gave him one year," said another diplomat, adding: "Chuan is now confidently going for the four years."

Mr. Chuan's democrats are senior partners in a five-party pro-democracy formed after a September, 1992 parliamentary election that followed the bloody suppression of street demonstrations that May.

Soldiers had killed scores of pro-democracy protesters and wounded hundreds more for demanding the resignation of unelected prime minister and former army chief Suchinda Krapayao.

Though Mr. Suchinda resigned in disgrace and the troops slunk back to barracks, Mr. Chuan's prospects were rated poor in a country that had seen 17 successful or attempted military coups in the 60 years since it ended absolute monarchy.

"Two years later, there's been no heavy violence, the economy is strong and he has seen off a number of challenges," one diplomat said. "He has matured in the job and is obviously acceptable to the Thai people. His opponents cannot touch him."

Some of Mr. Chuan's worst critics are motorists stuck in the daily traffic jams of Bangkok, Thailand's polluted, vehicle-choked capital where serious work has not yet begun on any mass-transit system.

Others accuse his government of doing little or nothing to reform a constitution in force since the last

ment-backed plans for constitutional reform.

It was a measure of Mr. Chuan's political skill that despite suffering a technical setback, he emerged the moral victor and avoided alienating either his own supporters or arousing the misgivings of the powerful armed forces.

Again, financial markets took fright in May when politician Chalad Worachat went on hunger strike outside parliament to force the pace of constitutional change.

Mr. Chuan, who was among the targets of a vicious anti-communist witch-hunt in 1976, suffered the insults of pro-democracy extremists at a mass rally in support of Chalad.

"He does not panic: He faced down his opponents, and this (past) summer could turn out to be the watershed in his career as government leader," one diplomat said.

In the last two months, Mr. Chuan has hosted a high-profile meeting of the association of South East Asian nations (ASEAN), toured Japan, and taken personal charge of a long-running Saudi arms scandal in which Thai police are accused of corruption.

U.N. neutrality sorely tested in Bosnia

By Kurt Schork
Reuters

SARAJEVO — If neutrality means offending both parties to a conflict, the United Nations is doing a good job in Bosnia. What might have been a week of unvarnished triumph for special envoy Yasushi Akashi and his field commander Sir Michael Rose, ended instead in bitter recrimination as both parties to the 30-month Bosnian conflict charged the U.N. with bias.

In the space of a few days U.N. negotiators had persuaded Bosnian Serb leaders to turn the utilities back on in besieged Sarajevo, reopen the city's airport and permit directly needed aid convoys through their territory.

Capping those advances was the prisoner exchange, more than a year in the making, which finally took place on Thursday.

Against stiff odds, it seemed the U.N. had laid a solid foundation to keep aid flowing to Bosnian civilians through the winter and to prevent months of low-intensity conflict erupting again into all-out war.

Before Akashi could leave Sarajevo to savour his triumph, however, the harsh realities of Bosnia's bitter ethnic conflict overtook him.

Even as prisoners of war were being exchanged over Sarajevo's bridge of brotherhood and unity at dawn on Thursday, Muslim-led Bosnian government commandos were attacking a Serb command post west of the city. Slitting the throats of four sentries, they killed another 12 Serb soldiers and four women nurses before withdrawing.

Relying on early U.N. reports from the scene, Mr. Akashi accused government troops of attacking through a U.N.-monitored demilitarised zone (DMZ) and mutilating their victims.

Bosnian Serbs, who had complained for weeks about government violations of the zone they surrendered to the U.N. last year on condition it be demilitarised, were outraged and blamed Mr. Akashi and Mr. Rose for the attack.

Already ostracised by the international community and reeling under a border blockade by Yugoslavia, Serb officials said they might now order the United Nations out of the 70 per cent of Bosnia they control and go it alone.

"This may influence us to decide to ask the U.N. to leave our country if it is unable to fulfil its agreements," Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic told Reuters on Thursday.

Worried that Serbs might move to clear the DMZ if they did not, the U.N. pressed government leaders to pull their troops out of the zone. Government sources say Rose threatened NATO air strikes, if necessary to remove them.

That threat and a U.N. admission on Friday its mutilation charge had been incorrect left Bosnia's government steaming.

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic demanded a public apology from Mr. Akashi, whom he accused of having slandered the Bosnian army with his atrocity allegation.

Mr. Izetbegovic also asked on what authority Mr. Rose was threatening to bomb a U.N. member nation fighting against an enemy named in numerous U.N. resolutions as the aggressor.

"As human beings we could ask them to be on our side for they are living and working in a town that has been under siege for over 30 months," the president complained.

"They have witnessed the truth that in this town more than 10,000 people have been killed... our parks have been turned into cemeteries."

Features

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1994 7

Iraq says pullback is over

(Continued from page 1)

leadership," according to ITAR-TASS.

"We do not hide the unacceptability of any kind of new military actions against Kuwait by Iraq or our demands that all U.N. Security Council resolutions be fulfilled" by Iraq, Mr. Kozyrev said after talks with his Brazilian counterpart.

"At the same time, we do not hide our interest in the fact that, in response to positive, appropriate steps by the Iraqi leadership, sanctions against Baghdad could be lifted step by step and new possibilities for economic cooperation could open up," he added.

As an example of renewed economic cooperation, Mr. Kozyrev cited Iraq's repayment of several billion dollars in debt to Russia and said Moscow regarded the situation with a view to meeting its own economic interests.

He gave no further details. Mr. Kozyrev said Moscow had been assured that Iraqi troops were being pulled back from positions near the border with Kuwait and called for discussion on the withdrawal at the Security Council, ITAR-TASS said.

Foreign ministry spokesman Grigori Karassin announced earlier that Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and Viktor Possevayuk, President Boris Yeltsin's special envoy on the Mideast, were leaving Tuesday for Iraq and Kuwait.

The two Russian envoys sought "to achieve step-by-step progress in stabilising the situation in the region, including possible measures to soften the regime" of the sanctions on Iraq, Mr. Karassin said.

"Our representatives are bringing a specific programme approved by" President Yeltsin, Mr. Karassin said. Meanwhile Iraq is providing electricity, water and sewage disposal for 3,000 anti-Kuwaiti protesters camping in tents erected last week near the Iraq-Kuwait border, U.N. observers said.

"The tent people have electricity, water, sewage disposal facilities and health support," Vesselin Kostov, a spokesman of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM), said.

The Iraqi News Agency reported from Baghdad that rallies took place on Tuesday in the camp which Iraq calls the "League of the People with Rights."

"This is a tragedy for the Iraqi people," he added. Mr. Ekeus said last week's meetings — when he was attacked personally by the Iraqi media — were tough.

"Saddam himself led the meeting. There was a very gloomy and depressing atmosphere ... there was a very hard tone from Baghdad's side, threatening. It was as though they wanted to force us to make certain statements and I refused to accept," he told the Stockholm daily from New York.

"One doesn't treat a diplomatic envoy in this way. But it wasn't personal vendetta. I believe rather that they were seeking a political goal," Mr. Ekeus added.

The Security Council will not review sanctions until mid-November and is not expected to seriously consider easing or lifting the embargo on oil exports until some time in 1995.

Baghdad had set an Oct. 10 deadline for action by the council on the sanctions because of a report from Mr. Ekeus.

Mr. Ekeus said he had started testing a crucial long-term monitoring programme, the last major project in the Iraqi disarmament programme.

But he did not give a time limit for the testing as Iraq had demanded, angering Iraq.

The completion of the weapons destruction programme is linked to lifting the embargo on Iraqi oil exports although the United States has said it would interpret the resolution broadly and look for other areas of compliance.

Russia dispatched two top envoys to the Gulf Tuesday in an effort to defuse the tensions there, and Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev played down the threat of a renewed military clash on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border.

Mr. Kozyrev said there was "no reason" at present to fear a conflict in the area and that Moscow had received assurances from Baghdad that Iraqi troops there would confine their activities to "military manoeuvres," ITAR-TASS said.

The Russian foreign minister also held out the possibility of lifting international sanctions against Iraq in response to eventual "positive,"

nised Kuwaiti sovereignty and freed hundreds of Kuwaitis detained during Iraq's occupation.

At present, Iraq is forbidden to fly fixed-wing military aircraft over areas of southern Iraq but Baghdad can carry out other military moves at will.

Appearing on CBS, the U.S. envoy to the U.N., Madeleine Albright, said it is imperative that steps be taken to ensure that Iraq "cannot continue to mess with us all the time." She did not elaborate.

The Iraqi News Agency said Tuesday that Iraq's elite Republican Guard had begun pulling back from the border Monday night and were heading to new positions north of Basra, Iraq's second-largest city.

Ms. Albright said the statements were indicative of Iraq's habit of saying one thing and doing something else. "This was the pattern in 1990," she said.

Monday night, President Clinton said he was doubling U.S. air power in the Gulf despite Iraq's promise to withdraw the troops. He declared sternly, "we're interested in facts, not promises."

Responding to Iraq's complaints about punishing U.N. sanctions, Mr. Clinton said Iraq knows what it must do to get its oil on the world market again: "Full compliance, not reckless provocation."

U.N. envoy Rolf Ekeus was quoted as saying he feared Iraq had ruined its chances of obtaining a review of the sanctions.

Mr. Ekeus, the Swedish head of the U.N. Special Commission in charge of dismantling Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, told the Swedish daily Aftabladet that the Iraqi troop movements to the Kuwaiti border were a tragedy for the suffering Iraqi people.

"This is very unfortunate, I had been convinced that sanctions would have been eased," said Mr. Ekeus, adding President Saddam headed meetings he had in Baghdad last week.

"Even the U.S. was prepared and the question (of easing sanctions) had moved on to another stage" before Iraq moved troops near the Kuwaiti border, the 59-year-old Swede said.

"This is a tragedy for the Iraqi people," he added. Mr. Ekeus said last week's meetings — when he was attacked personally by the Iraqi media — were tough.

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(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Rawabdeh said the talks centred on means of organising banking activity and initiating commercial activity.

Minister of State for Prime Minister Affairs and Information Minister Jawad Al Anani briefed the Cabinet on the outcome of the Joint-Jordanian-American Palestinian economic talks held in Washington on Oct. 3.

He said the committee agreed on the terms of reference for a comprehensive plan to develop the Jordan Valley, including building of a Dead Sea-Red Sea canal, and for an integrated strategy aimed at increasing water resources in the region after reaching agreement on Jordanian and Israeli shares of water in the Yarmouk and Jordan rivers.

Jordan and the United States also agreed on issues related to increasing aid to Jordan and reducing Jordan's indebtedness, Dr. Anani said. He added that Jordan and the U.S. discussed a proposal on setting up a \$250 million fund to support investment projects in Jordan and followed up on the stages

of the talks there focused on a withdrawal timetable and security arrangements on the Golan — two of the four obstacles to peace with Syria which Mr. Rabin outlined last month after offering a "marginal" withdrawal from the Golan.

Last month Mr. Assad said Syria was in "no hurry (for a solution) if it means losing an inch of our soil."

Mr. Christopher's fifth mission since May came on the heels of a series of gestures by Israel and Syria over the past few weeks seen in the United States as indications they are both preparing

for a meeting between Amman and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) leadership after Israel acknowledged the Kingdom's historic role vis-à-vis the shahs.

Palestinian delegates attending this week's talks in Amman have said that the PLO-led Palestine National Authority (PNA) in Gaza and Jericho did not intend to

any change in the present status of the shrines in Jerusalem at this point in time.

That PNA position developed after Jordan severed all its links with Awqaf and Islamic shrines in the West Bank except those in Jerusalem late last month. The PNA has said it had taken charge of the religious affairs of the West Bank since then

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Economy

Nobel economic prize awarded for games theory pioneers

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — The Nobel economics prize was awarded Tuesday to two Americans and a German, all pioneers in the development of game theory which applies the principles of games like chess or poker to complex economic problems.

The joint award, to Americans John Harsanyi and John Nash, and German Reinhard Selten, continued the U.S. domination of the economics prize, but marked the first ever German Nobel economics winner.

The laureates will share the seven-million Swedish krona prize money (about \$950,000) among them. The award was judged by a jury of five economics professors from the Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences.

The Royal Academy praised specifically their "pioneering analysis of equilibria in the theory of

non-cooperative games" — a branch of game theory which has greatly influenced economic research for half a century.

The theory can be applied to all kinds of complex economic problems, for example the study of restrictive practices within a market or a government's tax policies.

Dr. Nash, of Princeton University, New Jersey, first introduced the distinction between cooperative games, in which binding agreements can be made, and non-cooperative games, where binding agreements are not feasible.

Dr. Nash developed an equilibrium concept for non-cooperative games that was later called the Nash Equilibrium.

Dr. Selten, of the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms University in Bonn, refined the Nash Equilibrium concept

while Dr. Harsanyi, of the University of California, Berkeley, showed how games of incomplete information can be analysed.

The Nobel economics prize has been dominated by U.S. candidates over the last decade. Americans have won the prize in seven out of the last 10 years. Last year the award went to two U.S. historians for research on economic history.

The economics prize, established in 1969, is the most recent of the Nobel awards. Since then 23 Americans have won it, against six Britons, two Swedes, two Norwegians, and one each from France, the Netherlands and the Soviet Union.

Dr. Selten was the first German national to become a Nobel economics laureate. He was born in 1930 in Breslau, Germany, and has taught at the Rheinische Friedrich-

Wilhelms University, since 1984.

Dr. Harsanyi was born in Budapest in 1920, but has been a professor at Berkeley since 1964. Dr. Nash, born in Virginia in 1928, studied mathematics at Princeton from the age of 20 before becoming an academic there.

Dr. Harsanyi's work opened up a theoretical foundation for a new field of research, the economics of information, which focuses on strategic situations where different agents do not know each other's objectives.

Games theory was developed from the studies of such games as chess and poker, in which a player has to think ahead and devise a strategy based on the potential moves of other players.

The same approach can be applied to many economic situations, research has shown.

Rouble nosedives 21.5 per cent, crashes to 3,926 to the dollar

MOSCOW (R) — The rouble suffered its biggest ever one-day fall Tuesday by nosediving 21.5 per cent to the dollar and bankers and economists said it would hamper Russian efforts to stabilise the economy and win confidence in reforms.

The central bank intervened only at the last moment as the Russian currency crashed to 3,926 to the dollar on the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange (MICEX) from Monday's 3,081.

Bankers said the battered currency was sliding towards 4,400 to the dollar on the interbank market.

"We came down to earth with a bump," said ING bank chief dealer Robert Elensky. "The pace of the fall is unbelievable."

"It is a situation of total crisis. The central bank could not stand by any longer and sold some money," said Rossisky Kredit dealer Pavel Paryako.

The rouble has fallen by a whopping 32.9 per cent against the dollar so far this month. Last month it fell 20 per cent, far outpacing September monthly inflation of 7.7 per cent.

Bankers said the central bank was now letting the rouble find a new level after keeping it overvalued for much of this year as well as 1993, when the Russian currency appreciated massively in real terms against the dollar.

"The continuing fall shows

this is a deliberate central bank policy," said ING's Elensky. "The central bank held the rouble artificially high for much of this year, but no one was expecting such a fast slide."

One Western economist added: "I'd draw no conclusion on the rouble this week. We're in extraordinary territory."

Senior banking sources said the central bank was confident the currency would bounce back soon.

They expected the bank to start selling dollars on the market in the next few days in a deflationary attack on the rouble. The central bank declined comment.

"The central bank thinks it

can turn the tide," said one banker. "All these banks have been borrowing at higher and higher rouble interest rates to buy dollars. If the central bank sells a big volume of dollars, it may well succeed."

Banks were already short

of roubles to buy more dollars. Cash dried up on the rouble interbank market where overnight rates soared to 200-250 per cent from Monday's 140-150 per cent.

Some bankers expected the

fall to peter out soon.

"A complete collapse is

very unlikely," said one.

Rumours the central bank

might shut down MICEX

flooded the market. The

chief dealer of a big bank

said: "Everybody is waiting

for any information from the

central bank, but dealers fear

the continuing fall shows

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Business & Finance

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1994 9

Financial Markets Jordan Times
in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close
Sterling Pound	1.5855	1.5840
Deutsche Mark	1.5448	1.5451
Swiss Franc	1.2629	1.2637
French Franc	5.2830	5.2785**
Japanese Yen	100.36	100.60
European Currency Unit	1.2375	1.2363**

** USD Per SGD

* European Uptick or 8200 U.S. GMT

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.93	5.37	5.62	5.87
Sterling Pound	5.25	5.68	6.18	6.75
Deutsche Mark	4.75	5.00	5.12	5.50
Swiss Franc	3.62	3.93	4.12	4.50
French Franc	5.25	5.83	5.68	6.18
Japanese Yen	2.06	2.12	2.25	2.56
European Currency Unit	5.56	5.94	6.15	6.81

Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 11/10/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6980	0.7000
Sterling Pound	1.1047	1.1102
Deutsche Mark	0.4511	0.4534
Swiss Franc	0.5429	0.5456
French Franc	0.1320	0.1327
Japanese Yen	0.6931	0.6966
Dutch Guilder	0.4029	0.4049
Swedish Krona
Italian Lira	0.0444	0.0446
Belgian Franc

Per 100

Other Currencies

Date: 11/10/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahrain Dinar	1.8350	1.8550
Lebanese Lira	0.041115	0.042525
Saudi Riyal	0.1830	0.1875
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3100	2.3500
Qatari Riyal	0.1904	0.1925
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7950	1.8180
UAE Dirham	0.1893	0.1904
Greek Drachma	0.2745	0.3215
Cypriot Pound	1.4000	1.5050

Per 100

Branson's Virgin launches rival to Coke, Pepsi

LONDON (R) — British tycoon Richard Branson's Virgin Group is launching its own brand Virgin Cola, taking a cut-price record venture in the battle to quench the world's thirst.

The self-made millionaire is teaming up with Canada's Cott Corp., which has already bruised the soft drink giants on their home turf, and says the project is his biggest challenge yet in a 25-year career spanning records, retail and air travel.

"If all goes according to plan, I would expect that Virgin Cola Company will be as big as Virgin Atlantic Airlines within about four years," Mr. Branson told British Television News late Monday.

"Consumers of soft drinks around the world have been forced to pay inflated prices

for brand names like Coke and Pepsi. We want to tackle the market with a unique cola which we think will be a winner under the Virgin brand name," Mr. Branson said.

In a front page splash, Tuesday's edition of Britain's Sun tabloid said the new brand will go on sale first in Britain and the United States, followed by Japan and the rest of the world.

It will be produced at Cott's Pontefract factory in Britain and aims for sales of at least £1 billion (\$1.6 billion) within five years.

The new cola, which Mr. Branson says will be in the shops by the end of the month, will undercut Coke and Pepsi by up to 15 per cent. It comes in a red and white can with Virgin's distinctive logo and is also available in weight-watching diet

version.

The 44-year-old tycoon has made a fortune over the last two-and-a-half decades, turning a cut-price record venture into one of the world's leading music labels.

Virgin Atlantic, launched in 1984, has also become one of the world's most profitable airlines and Britain's second biggest long-haul carrier after British Airways.

Cott also caused a huge splash in Britain this year, launching a named own-brand cola, the first of its kind, for retail giant J. Sainsbury PLC in a repeat of moves that have won market share in North America.

Sainsbury's Classic Cola, launched in April, took 70 per cent of cola sales in the firm's stores in a couple of weeks, against the 24 per cent share of its previous down-market own-label drink.

The British Cola market alone is estimated at some \$1.0 billion a year, with Coke taking 30 per cent and Pepsi 18 per cent.

Coke, the world leader, makes some \$14.25 billion sales a year around the globe for parent Coca-Cola Co., while Pepsico Inc. has built the world's largest catering chain — owner of Pizza Hut, Taco Bell and Kentucky Fried Chicken — on the foundation of Pepsi's success.

New refineries to slash Arab Gulf sugar imports

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab Gulf states are setting up two sugar refineries that could slash their imports of the product by more than 50 per cent and enable them to penetrate the vast markets of neighbouring Iran and Iraq, industry sources in the region have said.

The refineries in the Saudi Red Sea port of Jeddah and Dubai's Jebel Ali free trade zone will have a combined output capacity of around 1.25 million tonnes per year, much higher than the total consumption in the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, the sources said.

Dubai's refinery will produce 750,000 tonnes when it is commissioned on Nov. 17 while the Jeddah project will have a capacity of nearly 500,000 tonnes per year and will be completed in mid-1996.

The Dubai project is owned by Al Ghurair Group, a well-known business family in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), while that in Jeddah is a joint venture between the Saudi cooking oil giant Savola, the British Tate and Lyle PLC and several Saudi sugar traders.

Owners of the Saudi refinery estimated its cost at around \$119 million while no figures have been disclosed

for the Dubai project. But industry sources put costs at more than \$150 million.

"The two projects are so big that they will suffice the whole market and push into the Iranian and Iraqi markets," said an industry source, close to the projects.

"They will also cut Gulf sugar imports by more than 50 per cent."

Around 90 per cent of the GCC's sugar imports come from Europe while cane for existing refineries come mainly from South East Asia and Latin America.

Consumption in the GCC is among the highest in the world, exceeding 25 kilogrammes per person.

Official figures showed Algeria has remained the biggest Arab sugar importer, buying more than one million tonnes per year. This accounts for nearly a quarter of the total Arab sugar imports.

Dubai, the main Gulf commercial centre, already exports sugar to Iran but such exports have remained a fraction of the total Iranian sugar imports of more than 700,000 tonnes per year. Iraq's sugar imports were estimated at 500,000 tonnes per year before its 1990 invasion of neighbouring Kuwait.

Another possible target of the two refineries is Yemen, a major regional sugar importer, with purchases of around 350,000 tonnes per year.

"Our production will cater for the local market and other markets," director of the Jeddah project, Mohammad Kashkari, said in recent local press comments. "So, we expect a sharp decline in sugar imports by the Kingdom and other countries in the region."

South Korea predicts another boom year for its electronics industry

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korea's electronic industry boom will survive cut-throat competition from Japan and continue through 1995, led by thriving sales in chips, a business think-tank has predicted.

"Helped by a revitalised gulf economy, South Korean electronics manufacturers will be buoyant in the coming year," said Park Pal-Hyun, an economic analyst at the Lucky-Goldstar (L.G.) Economic Institute.

Mr. Park's forecast was based on a resilient domestic economy as well as the price-competitiveness of South Korean products.

He said the edge was such that it should continue even if the boost to South Korean exports of the appreciation of the Japanese yen, did not continue through 1995.

Seo Jang-Won, a researcher at the semiconductor division of the L.G. institute predicted: "The upturn in semiconductor exports and domestic sales will last at least two years."

South Korea's semiconductor industry, which has enjoyed an unprecedented boom in the past two years, was expected to be bolstered next year by steady windfall orders for four-megabyte dynamic random access memory (DRAM) chips, whose prices are on the up-swing, Mr. Seo said.

In the first half of the year, South Korean semiconductor makers racked up a handsome 65 per cent increase in terms of production value — \$3.75 billion over the same period last year, the institute said.

But the growth pace would slow down to about 45 per cent in the second half from last year, because supplies would taper off, it said, and because the four megabyte DRAM, South Korea's major export, slowly would be replaced by higher capacity versions.

The institute forecast next year's growth rate in the value of semiconductor output at 30 per cent, reaching \$10.63 billion, compared with a projected \$8.13 billion for the whole of 1994. If the 1994 projection is fulfilled it would represent a rise of 54 per cent over 1993.

"Next year's (anticipated) growth rate looks rather stagnant compared to this year, but a 30 per cent surge would still be outstanding," Mr. Seo told AFP.

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Qatari claims Asia's fastest human title ASIAN GAMES

HIROSHIMA (AP) — Qatar's Talal Mansoor defended his title as Asia's fastest human and a 14-year-old Malaysian won a yachting gold medal Tuesday as China's gold-medal pace slowed somewhat.

While the Chinese were expected to win the major share of women's track and field events, Syria's Ghada Sheaa claimed the title of best all-round athlete by winning the seven-event heptathlon.

China took only one of the day's four women's track events, and one of the three men's.

In another test of all-round skills, South Korea's Kim Myung-Gun won the modern pentathlon, which combines competition in fencing, running, swimming, shooting and riding.

Singapore captured its first gold of the games, in yachting. Mansoor's gold also was Qatar's first here, although it marked the third time he has won the Asian Games 100.

He lowered the games record time again in doing it.

China seized eight golds for the day, with three each in yachting and shooting in addition to two in track and field.

That boosted its total to 100 — the total it had predicted before the games — another five days of competition remain. It won the last games in Beijing in 1990 with 183 golds.

Japan, with golds in yachting and one each in track and bowing, edged ahead of archrival South Korea in the tight battle for second place.

Japan had 36 to 35 for the Koreans, who won gold Tuesday in bowing as well as modern pentathlon. Kazakhstan was next with 16 and Iran had eight.

In total medals, China had 188, Japan 136, South Korea 106, Kazakhstan 50 and Taiwan 26.

Meanwhile, Kuwait, China, South Korea and Uzbekistan advanced to Thursday's soccer semifinals. Kuwait beat the United Arab Emirates 2-1 in extra time

Tuesday, China beat Saudi Arabia 2-0, South Korea slipped by archrival Japan 3-2 on a penalty kick in injury time, and unbeaten Uzbekistan blanked Turkmenistan 3-0.

Kazakhstan scored victories Tuesday in the team modern pentathlon competition, track and shooting.

Taiwan also was among those that cut into China's haul on the track. Wang Hui-Chen won the women's 200 metres in a games record 23.34 seconds, followed by Sri Lankans Susanthika Jayasinghe and Darasha K. Damayanthi.

Ryan Han Wui Tan, the Asian champion, was Malaysia's 14-year-old champion in optimist class yachting. Officials could not confirm whether he was the youngest gold medallist of these games. Except for a seventh-place finish in the last of seven races, he finished no lower than third. The worst race does not count in a competitor's total score.

Mansoor and his rivals went through five false starts before completing their 100-metre sprint. He won in 10.18 seconds, beating the 4-year-old games' mark of 10.30 and finishing comfortably ahead of Kazakhstan's Vitaly Savin, who took silver in 10.29.

Japan's Shunji Karube beat teammate Yoshihiko Saito in a photo finish in the men's 400-metre hurdles. Both were timed in 49.13, beating the 8-year-old games record of 49.31.

China's only men's victory came in the long jump, and Huang Geng's winning 8.34 metres didn't count as a games record because it was wind-aided. Instead, teammate Huang Baotong got the record with his silver medal effort of 8.12; the old mark was 8.07.

As expected, China's powerful contingent of distance runners won the women's 3,000 metres. Zhang Linli's time of 8 minutes, 52.97 seconds broke the games record of 8:57.12. Harumi Hiroyama of Japan failed in a home-stretch effort



Qatar's Talal Mansoor raises his arm in victory as he crosses the line to win the men's 100m to take the gold medal, setting a new record at the 12th Asian Games. Mansoor,

after five false starts in the event, finished in a time of 10.18secs to take the gold beating his previous Asian Games record set in Beijing by 12 hundredths of a second (AFP photo)

Xiaohui was second with 5,800.

In the modern pentathlon, Kim scored 5,329 to 5,227 for Kazakhstan's Alexandre Parygine, but Kazakhstan took the team title with 15,493 to the Koreans' 15,288.

Two grand masters were decided in bowing — Lee Ji-Yeon of South Korea in the women's competition and

Hiroshi Yamamoto of Japan in the men's. The golds were decided after a 15-game battle among the top 16 scorers in singles, doubles, trios and five-member team competition.

Lee defeated teammate Kim Sook-Young 389 to 321 in the women's final, with Irene Garcia of the Philippines taking the bronze after being eliminated 235 to 188 by Lee.

Yamamoto beat Taiwan's Isai Chun-Lin 412-406 in the men's final, after eliminating bronze medalist Saed Hadi Al Hajiri 252-172.

Aside from Malaysia's Tan, yachting champions were Chi-Loong Benedict Tan of Singapore in the laser class, Qian Hong of China in men's mistral imco, Li Ke of China in women's mistral imco, Takayuki Goto and Hiroshi Maeda of Japan in enterprise, their teammates Kenji Nakamura and Masato Takaki in men's 470, and Chen Xiumei and Liu Sumei of China in women's 470.

to catch Zhang and took the silver in 8:53.74.

But Olga Chichigina of Kazakhstan edged China's Zhou Hongyang and Zhang Yi in the 100-metre hurdles.

The times were 12.80, 12.87 and 12.90.

In the heptathlon, Syria's Sheaa piled up 6,360 points, beating the games record of 6,231. China's Zhang

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Sports

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1994 1



MARADONA'S BACK: Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona (right) takes the ball past patted him for a second time after testing positive for a banned drug during the 1994 World Cup (AFP photo)

Maradona retired from professional soccer

Australia lifts horse race ban after virus is contained

BRISBANE (R) — Australian horse racing officials Tuesday lifted a ban on track meetings after apparently containing an outbreak of a mystery virus which killed a trainer and 14 horses.

The announcement ended three weeks of disruption which cost the Queensland racing industry several million dollars in lost revenue.

Queensland Racing Minister Bob Gibbs said all restric-

tions on the movement of horses would end at midnight local time Tuesday.

Although experts believe the outbreak has been checked, a quarantine will remain in place at the three Brisbane stables where the horses died from the unidentified virus.

Trainer Vic Rail, 49, owner of the stable where the outbreak is believed to have originated, died in hospital two weeks ago, showing simi-

lar symptoms to his horses.

Forensic tests have suggested that rail and his horses died from the same virus.

Gibbs told reporters there had been no fresh outbreak of the virus for 18 days.

In the immediate aftermath of the deaths, meetings in south-east Queensland were cancelled. The ban was narrowed the following week to cover courses in the Brisbane area only.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNIAH HIRSCH
BY TOMAS NEAL, STC

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦Void ♦K9863 ♣K9864 ♠A108
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 1 C Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.—It's a question of whether you should show your diamonds first and then support clubs, or clubs immediately. We feel the three-card auction overstates the strength of the hand. Therefore, a raise to three clubs does the hand full justice.

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦K9 ♦Q9855 ♣A1084 ♠AK7
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?

A.—Partner has shown a weak hand with long spades. The only option available to you is to raise partner's suit with a maximum no trump and a good fit. This hand does not qualify in either respect.

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦K963 ♦75 ♣K1084 ♠Q972
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 C Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.—Forget about counting points. You have a double fit and a singleton in the enemy suit and partner has shown a good hand by introducing a new suit now. Bid four spades.

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦AK14 ♦9853 ♦Q106 ♠84
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 C Dbl ?
What action do you take?
A.—If you have some bid in your armor for a limit raise over a takeout double, by all means make it. If not, the standard way to show a hand of 10 points or more is to redouble. At your next turn support partner's suit at the lowest level possible.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦995 ♦8762 ♠KJ ♠KJ872
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 C Pass 1 NT Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.—You have a near maximum for your first response and four-card support for partner's second suit. Tell partner the good news by raising to three hearts.

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦Q106 ♦752 ♠K8743 ♠AB
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 C Pass 1 NT Pass
2 NT Pass ?
What action do you take?
A.—With a whisker more you would have jumped to two no trump at your second turn. Therefore, it would now be churlish of you to turn down partner's invitation. Bid three no trump.

U.S. to host France in Davis Cup tie

LONDON (AP) — The United States will host France in the first round of the 1995 Davis Cup in a rematch of the championship final of three years ago.

Tuesday's draw matched the other top seed, Germany, against Croatia, making its first-ever appearance in the 16-nation World Group.

The first round matches will be played Feb. 3-5.

Perhaps the most volatile pairing drawn a trip for Canada to Haiti in the first round of regional play in the American Zone Group Two, also set for Feb. 3-5.

The last time the United States and France met, Guy Forget and Henri Leconte led the French to a 3-1 victory in Lyon to take the 1991 title. The Americans rebounded to beat Switzerland in the championship match the following year.

The United States and Germany were made the top seeds by the Davis Cup committee despite their defeats in last month's semifinals. Russia, which beat Germany, and U.S. conqueror Sweden will meet at Moscow's Olympic Stadium in this year's championship Dec. 2-4.

Russia and Sweden were made the joint-third seeds, and both drew away matches for next year's first round. Russia will visit Belgium, while Sweden drew Denmark for its opening round match for the second consecutive year. Sweden won this year's encounter 5-0 at home.

South Africa, making its first appearance in the World Group since 1978, drew an opening round home match against Australia. South Africa was readmitted to the competition in 1992, and has steadily worked its way up through regional play to qualify for the top group.

"We have been in constant communication with FIFA and they have assured us that they are satisfied with our preparations for the competition so far," local organising committee (LOC) chairman Williams said in an interview.

He said hosting rights could be withdrawn only if FIFA was not satisfied with preparations after its final inspection.

"But we are almost ready with all that is required of us for hosting the competition," Williams said. "Our facilities

Jordan Soccer League leaders Al Wihdat to meet Kufrsoum

By Aleen Bannayan
Special To the Jordan Times

and Al Ahli who have disappointed their fans with their seventh place standing and inconsistent form.

AMMAN — Kufrsoum, a newcomer to the Kingdom's first division soccer championship and the surprise team of the tournament, will this week clash with current leaders Al Wihdat when the seventh week of the competition kicks off Wednesday.

Kufrsoum are now in fifth place behind the Kingdom's top four teams — Al Wihdat, Al Faisali, Al Ramtha and Al Hussein — after scoring four wins.

Al Wihdat last week took

the lead with 12 points after defeating Al Jeel, as Al Hussein conceded first place after surprisingly losing 2-0 to Al Ramtha.

Al Wihdat have so far won all their matches, allowing only one goal to enter their nets. They have however missed the efforts of key striker Hisham Abdul Mun' em who is preoccupied with his duties as head coach of Al Ruseifa club in the second division.

Another important clash this week will be that of second placed Al Hussein

away from the last four places facing the grim threat of relegation.

With four weeks left in the first leg of the competition, Al Hussein have maintained the best scoring record at 20 goals followed by Kufrsoum 16, Al Faisali 12, while Al Wihdat only have 9.

According to figures released by the Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF), the total profit from the past week's matches reached JD12,700, with Al Wihdat-Al Jeel match securing nearly half the amount at JD6,078, while Shabab Al Hussein-Al Arabi match netted the least at JD27!

Standings before 7th week

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts.
Wihdat	6	6	—	—	9	1	12
Hussein	6	5	—	1	20	6	10
Ramtha	6	3	3	3	10	3	9
Faisali	6	3	2	1	12	3	8
Kufrsoum	6	4	—	2	16	5	8
Jeel	6	3	1	2	7	6	7
Arabi	6	2	2	2	7	9	6
Qadissieh	6	1	1	4	8	13	3
Shabab Al Hussein	6	1	1	4	9	16	3
Jeel	6	—	1	5	3	12	1
Karmel	6	—	—	6	2	15	—

Nigeria sure of hosting world soccer tournament

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria's organisation of the World Youth Championship is on track and should meet all the demands of the International Football Federation (FIFA) in December, tournament organiser Sebastian Williams said Monday.

Last week heads of all agencies involved in the championship met military ruler General Sani Abacha in the inland capital Abuja.

After the meeting an official statement said there was no longer any doubt about Nigeria's ability to stage the tournament to another country but Williams said Soccer's governing body had no such plans.

"We have been in constant communication with FIFA and they have assured us that they are satisfied with our preparations for the competition so far," local organising committee (LOC) chairman Williams said in an interview.

He said hosting rights could be withdrawn only if FIFA was not satisfied with preparations after its final inspection.

"But we are almost ready with all that is required of us for hosting the competition," Williams said. "Our facilities

Auriol gains ground in San Remo Rally

MONTALCINO, Italy (R) — Carlos Sainz's hopes of winning the World Rally Championship took a knock on Tuesday when he left the road and had to deal with three punctures on the second day of the San Remo Rally.

Sainz got his Subaru back on the road and retained the lead in the event, the penultimate round of the world championship. But his misfortunes allowed defending champion Didier Auriol, who led the standing going into the San Remo Rally, to make up lost time.

Bruno Thiry of Belgium held second place until he skidded off the road on the 13th stage. He drove his Ford to the finish on three wheels and dropped back to fourth place.

ADDENDUM TO TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENT TO THE NEW FACULTIES OF EDUCATION AT THREE UNIVERSITIES IN JORDAN International Competitive Bidding (ICB)

This is to advise interested individuals, companies and/or their agents that the application materials for the above mentioned bids have been amended. Therefore, please note the followings:

1. The amended application materials should be collected from the following respective universities for final submissions between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 12, 1994 to Wednesday, October 19, 1994:
 - a. The University of Jordan in Amman.
 - b. The liaison office of Yarmouk University located at the Higher Council For Science and Technology building inside the campus of the Royal Scientific Society,
 - c. The liaison office of Mu'tah University located at Samir Rifai St. — Jabal Amman.
2. Closing date for the bid submission has been extended from 12:00 noon of Wednesday Nov. 2, 1994 to 12:00 noon of Tuesday Nov. 22, 1994.

Issued by:

Oct. 12, 1994
The University of Jordan
The Yarmouk University
The Mu'tah University

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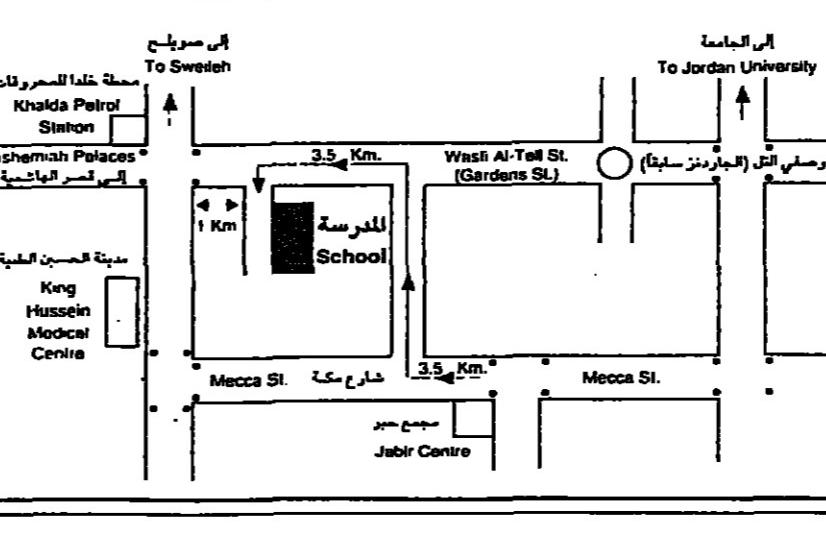
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Yusra, Safiyah Al Omari and Mahmoud Hamidah...in AI Muhajer (Immigrant) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Farouk Fishawi & Hanan Shawqi ... in: EITHER YOU LOVE OR LEAVE Shows at 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 CONCORD "1" SPEED CONCORD "2" CRUSH Shows: 3:30, 5:15	Presents: Children's theatre "MARZOUK AND THE MAGIC LAMP" at 10 a.m. For reservation call tel: 618274-618275	Today & Everyday Abu Awwad in social comedy "PUNCTURED BAG"	Presents: The political satire: AI Salam Ya Salam Daily at 8:30 p.m. Saturday & Sunday is the theatre's holiday.

Arafat, Rabin tipped for Nobel prize amid dispute

OSLO (Agencies) — The Nobel Peace Prize Committee, wracked by its worst dispute in two decades, has decided to give this year's award to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, a newspaper reported Tuesday.

The Oslo newspaper Aftenposten said one committee member, who regards Mr. Arafat as a "terrorist," was so angered by the decision that he planned to resign in protest when the prize is announced in Oslo on Friday.

The report appeared to break a tradition of deep secrecy prior to the formal announcement of the most coveted of the Nobel prizes, which are worth seven million Swedish kronor (\$933,000) this year.

Mr. Arafat and Mr. Rabin gave a historic impetus to Middle East peace with a handshake on the White House lawn on Sept. 13, 1993, that ended the taboo on formal recognition between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). They signed a declaration of principles on limited Palestinian self-rule as a first step towards an overall peace settlement between the two sides.

Aftenposten, quoting unidentified sources, said the five-member Nobel committee struggled with its decision at a meeting last Friday over who should be honoured for achieving last year's historic Middle East peace breakthrough during secret talks in Norway.

The report said the committee might meet again in an attempt to patch up the dispute. The committee can change its mind until the last minute but Aftenposten said that was unlikely since most members want Mr. Arafat to share the prize.

On Friday, the 1986 Nobel peace laureate, Elie Wiesel, said in Paris that the committ-

tee was "in agony" over the decision.

Committee secretary Geir Lundestad refused to say whether a decision had been reached.

Mr. Rabin's spokeswoman declined comment, saying the prime minister's office has not been informed of any decision. In Gaza City, Mr. Arafat's spokesman, Nabil Abu Iudeh, also refused comment.

But chief Palestinian negotiator Nabil Shaath saw Mr. Arafat will be "deeply gratified."

"I am sure Arafat must be deeply gratified at knowing that not only his people are proud of his achievements but now there is international acclaim for his role," Dr. Shaath told reporters.

Such an award would be a "very natural, well justified gesture, providing important impetus to the peace process."

"I am sure Chairman Arafat and Prime Minister Rabin opened up historic abilities for peace."

Aftenposten said Karel Kristiansen, one of the most outspoken members of the Nobel Peace Prize Committee, so adamantly opposed the choice that he threatened to resign if Mr. Arafat shared the prize. Aftenposten said that Mr. Kristiansen, a long-time supporter of Israel, had opposed Mr. Arafat throughout the selection process.

"I am not prepared to comment, or to confirm or deny anything of what the newspaper has reported today," he said.

However, when Israeli Radio told him in an interview earlier Tuesday that some Israelis would appreciate his stand, Mr. Kristiansen answered: "Thank you very much."

In the past, Mr. Kristiansen has criticised both Mr. Arafat and Mr. Rabin.

Mr. Kristiansen, a former government minister and member of parliament from the Christian Democratic

Party, started off his six-year term on the committee in 1991 with unusual candor for a member of the tight-lipped body, which traditionally refused comment on past winners.

At the time, he said the 1990 award to then-Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev a few months before he ordered a violent military crackdown in the Baltic republics was an example of how dangerous it could be to honour an active politician.

Mr. Kristiansen has also said former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger may not have shared the 1973 prize with North Vietnamese negotiator Le Duc Tho — the only laureate to ever decline the prize — if the committee had waited.

That prize deeply split the committee, and two members resigned in protest with five years left on their terms, but waited two months to announce their decision until after the prize was presented in December.

Tuesday's report highlighted a dispute on whether the prize, one of six Nobel awards being given this month, should be shared equally among both sides in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Under current Nobel statutes, there should not be more than three winners, but many more were involved in the secret talks that led to the 1993 agreement on limited Palestinian self-rule.

Other key players were Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Mahmoud Abbas, who signed the peace accord with Israel last year in Washington.

The committee reportedly had considered avoiding the problem by honouring those who did the actual work in the Norwegian-mediated talks, such as Norwegian peace broker Terje Røed Larsen, Israeli negotiator Uri Savir and a Palestinian negotiator.



KING MEETS CHRISTOPHER: His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday receives U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher (see page one) (photo by Yousef Al Allan)

Bandits rob foreign reporters near Basra

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — A group of foreign journalists and Iraqi officials escorting them to the southern city of Basra were robbed of thousands of dollars in equipment, cash and valuables by at least four highway bandits, journalists said Tuesday.

"They punched me in the side of the head and then lined us up next to the road with our hands on our heads," said Elisa Gambino, 31, a producer for Cable News Network (CNN).

"I thought they were going to execute us."

Ms. Gambino said the drunken ringleader of the nine gunmen who stopped their bus kept yelling: "I'm doing this because my kids are starving. Iraq has no food."

The robbery underscored the lawlessness that has become endemic in Iraq amid the economic collapse brought on by U.N. sanctions imposed after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

No one was seriously hurt but those aboard the bus were threatened with death and several, including some of the women, were slapped and punched, Reuter reported.

Among the 30 occupants of the bus were Reuter's American bureau chief Jack Redden, Agence France Presse's Randa Habib and reporters for CNN and Fuji television. They were covering the Iraqi military deployment near the Kuwaiti border.

They said they were stopped Monday evening about 30 minutes north of Basra. The bandits drove a pickup truck coming down the wrong way on an otherwise deserted

GIA frees Algerian singer with a message

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algerian singer Lounes Matoub said he had been kidnapped by the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), the country's most radical Islamic faction, and released with a message for his Berber people.

Mr. Matoub, a strong critic of the fundamentalists, told AFP and the BBC that the GIA had freed him after more than two weeks in captivity with a call from the movement for help from the Berbers of his Kabylie region.

"The villagers must understand that we are not against them but that we are fighting an illegitimate regime," the GIA message said. "We are asking them to help us and not to greet us with hunting rifles when we appear in their villages."

Mr. Matoub, 38, added that he also had a message for the head of state's delegation."Official Israeli sources said Monday an arms-for-oil pact was an aim of the visit and noted that Congolese Oil Minister Benoit Koukebene was a member of the delegation. Mr. Lissouba's team also includes Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister Benjamin Bounkouou and his predecessor, now an opposition deputy in parliament, Jean Blaise Kololo.

They threatened to disclose what this message was, stating that he would give details at a press conference on Thursday.

Mr. Matoub said he was "well treated" by the armed gang that kidnapped him on September 25 in a cafe near Tizi-Ouzou, the capital of the Kabylie region where he enjoys immense popularity.

Soldiers shoot at Israeli car

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers accidentally shot at an Israeli vehicle in the volatile area of the West Bank town of Hebron Monday, seriously wounding the driver, Israeli reports said.

The army confirmed only that soldiers had shot and wounded an Israeli civilian in the head after firing on a car they thought was suspicious or being driven by guerrillas in the Hebron area. The shooting was being investigated, it added.

Palestinian reports said an Arab had ambushed the Israeli vehicle, at an intersection about 25 kilometres

south of Jerusalem, and that troops were combing Hebron, a city of 110,000 Palestinians and 450 Israelis, for suspects.

The site of the shooting was in an area prone to Palestinian-Israeli violence, particularly since Feb. 25 when an Israeli settler shot and killed more than 30 Palestinians at prayer in the Ibrahim Mosque.

Monday's shooting also came as troops in the West Bank were on higher alert a day after two Israelis were shot and killed in downtown Jerusalem by two Palestinians who were slain at the site.

NEWS IN BRIEF

UNICEF concerned about Iraq malnutrition

GENEVA (AFP) — Malnutrition among newborns in Iraq has increased by 9.2 per cent in the last year, the U.N.'s Childrens Fund (UNICEF) said here Tuesday, indicating its growing concern for at least two million Iraqi children. The agency said that additional food rations decreed by Baghdad in September were a health threat for 2.25 million children and 230,000 women who are pregnant or breast feeding. According to a report by the agency on the impact of the food rationing on the most vulnerable segment of the population, some 665,000 families have a 50 per cent calory shortfall in their diet. The effect could be a long term increase in the country's infant mortality rate and a lowering of children's intellectual development, the report said. Flour, rice, oil and sugar rations have gone down by between 10 and 50 per cent since September in Iraq, with people's calory intake reduced by 36 per cent and protein intake by 37 per cent. UNICEF said.

Congo denies arms-for-oil deal with Israel

BRAZZAVILLE (AFP) — The Congolese government on Tuesday denied that President Pascal Lissouba was currently visiting Israel to strike a deal to trade Congolese oil for Israeli weapons, in an official statement. Mr. Lissouba, who began a four-day official visit to Israel on Sunday, was there to "lay the groundwork for economic, scientific and cultural cooperation" after the restoration of diplomatic ties in 1991, the statement said. He did not go to Israel to negotiate new military accords nor to buy arms, it added, stressing that "no Congolese military official is part of the head of state's delegation." Official Israeli sources said Monday an arms-for-oil pact was an aim of the visit and noted that Congolese Oil Minister Benoit Koukebene was a member of the delegation. Mr. Lissouba's team also includes Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister Benjamin Bounkouou and his predecessor, now an opposition deputy in parliament, Jean Blaise Kololo.

U.N. peacekeeper wounded in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU (AFP) — A Zimbabwean soldier serving with the U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) has been wounded by a stray bullet while on guard in southern Mogadishu, U.N. military spokesman Major Rick McDonald announced here on Tuesday. The condition of the peacekeeper, who was wounded on the right hand, was stable, Maj. McDonald said, without giving further details or identity of the wounded U.N. soldier. In another incident, a commander of the Somali auxiliary police force and a regional governor were shot and killed in northeastern Somalia. The two, Colonel Abdi Sugulle of the police force and Colonel Jama Dhihi — members of the Majerteen Somali clan — were believed to have been killed by a man who had gone to them to ask for a job, but had failed to get one.

Major drug haul in Sharjah emirate

SHARJAH (AP) — Police have seized 228 kilogrammes of hashish and opium from an illegal Iranian immigrant in the biggest drug haul this year, an official newspaper reported Tuesday. Captain Abdul Rahman Al Fardan of the police anti-drug squad was quoted as saying the Iranian tried to enter the country by boat with 188 kilogrammes of hashish and 40 kilogrammes of opium. The 30-year-old man, identified only by the initials M.M., was arrested as he tried to sell the drugs by an undercover agent. He had hidden the drugs in eight bags between rocks on a remote part of the coast. The squad received a tip-off that the suspect wanted to sell the quantity for one million dirhams (\$271,740), the newspaper said. The United Arab Emirates lies on a major smuggling route through the Gulf. The largest bust of the year previously occurred in June, when police seized 200 kilogrammes of drugs.

Kuwait bans fishermen from north

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Kuwait on Tuesday imposed a nighttime ban on its fishermen sailing in its northern waters because of the crisis with Iraq. A Defence Ministry statement called on "citizens and fishermen" not to go to the area "because of the current situation in the country." Kuwait's main islands of Bubiyan, Faylakah and Warba are situated in the area involved. The maritime zone stretches from Ras Hamra to Bubiyan, about 150 kilometres north of Kuwait City, and from Bubiyan to Faylakah about 40 kilometres east of the capital. Fishermen were asked to use the island of Aiba, which is a dozen kilometres south of Faylakah, said the statement published by the official agency KUNA. The decision came after the defence ministry extended Kuwait's military zone to cover about half of the country and ending only 30 kilometres outside of Kuwait City.

Cypriot police arrest Dutchman

NICOSIA (AP) — Police have arrested a Dutch "drug baron" wanted in the Netherlands, the Cyprus News Agency (CNA) reported. Albertus van Os, 39, of Amsterdam was picked up Monday in the island's key port, Limassol, the agency said. Details on Mr. Van Os' case were not given. However, in an indication of its seriousness, CNA said Dutch police had already arrived to assist their Cypriot counterparts. CNA said the Dutchman is expected to be deported to the Netherlands. Mr. Van Os moved to Cyprus in July and lived in the freewheeling resort of Ayia Napa before taking up residence in Limassol, the agency said.

Israel warns against German extremism

BERLIN (R) — Israeli Ambassador Avi Primor said in a newspaper interview published on Tuesday that Germany's schools needed to redouble efforts to educate young people on the dangers of extremism and xenophobia. "Right-wing extremism ... has roots not only with old Nazis but unfortunately among a number of youths as well," Mr. Primor told the Berliner Morgenpost. Mr. Primor said he was concerned about opinion polls showing that about one in four Germans harboured some positive sentiment towards the Nazis. The surveys meant that right-wing extremism was not a "temporary problem ... that reemerges from time to time during difficult economic periods," he added. But the ambassador said that he was in general "hopeful" because "there are more and more people in Germany who are actively fighting right-wing extremism and because the vast majority of Germans have faced up to the past."

Liberal reelected Tunisian speaker

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia's parliament reelected Habib Bourguiba as its speaker for the new legislative year which started on Tuesday. Mr. Bourguiba, a liberal member of the ruling Democratic Constitutional Union (RCD), was unanimously elected speaker for the fourth year. The 163-member Chamber of Deputies also named two opposition representatives as members of each of its specialised committees for the first time. Opposition has 19 seats and the RCD 142 seats in the parliament elected last March for a five-year period.

RSCN to mark environment day

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) is marking Arab Environment Day Friday with several activities and programmes throughout the country according to an RSCN statement Tuesday. Activities will include a two-week workshop on environmental issues in water consumption to open at Amra Hotel on Oct. 16.

Column 10

Balladur rejects calls to restore guillotine

AMBOISE, France (R) — French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur Monday rejected calls to restore the death penalty following last week's Paris killings of three police officers and a taxi driver. Conservative Balladur, on a tour of the Loire Valley, said restoring the death penalty, abolished by the Socialists 13 years ago, would create more problems than it would solve. He said he did not feel the issue had been re-opened. "As things stand, and in view of current international conventions, it would be difficult to do so," he said. Abolition of the guillotine was one of President Francois Mitterrand's first initiatives after his election in 1981. Mr. Balladur said he would have voted for abolition if he had been a member of parliament at the time. Several parliamentarians have recently called for the death penalty to be restored following several murders of children. And last week's killings in Paris prompted hardline Interior Minister Charles Pasqua to suggest that people convicted of murdering policemen, children or elderly people should face death.

Half a billion people suffer from mental disorders

GENEVA (AFP) — At least half a billion people worldwide, or about one-tenth of the planet's population, suffer from mental disorder, the World Health Organization said in a communiqué issued on World Mental Health Day. The communiqué said that more than 50 million people suffer from serious mental problems, including schizophrenia, while 155 million people are neurotic and 120 million are mentally retarded. It added that 100 million people suffer from emotional disorders such as deep depression and 16 million are mad. The communiqué said that 100 million additional people suffer from mental disorders linked to addiction, infections or trauma. The world population is over five billion.

Bishop proposes making women cardinals

VATICAN CITY (AFP) — The Bishop of Owando, Congo, Ernest Kombo proposed to the Pope and bishops participating in the synod on consecrated religious life Monday that women be allowed to become cardinals. Bishop Kombo proposed creating "secular" women cardinals, in other words non-ordained priests, because the Vatican does not authorise women to be ordained. "May God make consecrated women an incandescent light that shines on the world and constitutes a veritable salt of the Earth," Bishop Kombo said, calling on God to bring about the appointment of women to posts of responsibility, even to the highest posts on the hierarchy, as secular cardinals. Never in the church's history, since the founding of the Sacred College in the 12th century, have there been female cardinals. During the synod work carried out Monday, several bishops came out in favour of giving nuns more responsibility in the church.

Teenager finds grenade launcher in Moscow park

MOSCOW (AFP) — A 15-year-old boy found a primed and loaded grenade launcher hidden in the bushes of a Moscow park and aimed it at a nearby apartment building. ITAR-TASS said Wednesday. Military experts were called in to discharge the grenade launcher, which had a 25-metre (80-foot) length of rope attached to the trigger leading to another clamp of bushes at Vorontsov Park in southern Moscow. Violent crime, frequently involving bombs and military hardware, has risen sharply in Russia's large cities in the past 18 months. Law enforcement authorities have attributed most crimes involving bombings and heavy weaponry to settling of accounts between rival criminal gangs.